3 Iraqi officials abducted; Iraqis claim 14 dead in U.S. attack Page 3

STARS STRIPES.



Hollywood couple Aniston, Pitt calling it quits

Eyes on offense for Sunday's playoff matchups

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2005

GI not guilty of killing Iraqi who drowned

Convicted of assault for ordering Iraqis to jump from bridge Page 5



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ews Tracker ... What's new with old news

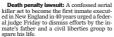
States

Washington gubernatorial vote: More than two months after Washing ton voters cast their ballots. Republican Dino Rossi is hoping the courts will give them another chance to pick their next governor

Rossi and the state GOP announced Friday they will contest the gubernatorial election that gave Rossi's Democratic foe, Chris-Gregoire, 129-vote victory. Republicans filed a

lawsuit contesting the election in Chelan County, in north-cen-tral Washington. GOP attorney Harry Korrell Republicans would not seek to block

Gregoire's inauguration, scheduled for Wednesday. Democrats said the state consti-tution won't allow a revote.



"I don't need anyone filing on my behalf," Michael Ross told Judge Christopher Droney via closed circuit television from Osborn Correctional Institution in Somers, Conn. "I can file my own lawsuits if I wish.

The Connecticut Civil Liberties Union and Ross' father, Dan, argue Connecticut's method of lethal injection amounts to cruel and unusual punishment, and violates international treaties on torture and civil rights.

Peterson murders: The five people who are sharing a \$50,000 reward for finding the bodies of Laci Peterson and her fetus have chosen to stay out of the spotlight, but Laci Peterson's mother nonetheless offered them her gratitude Friday

You could have chosen to keep on walking," Sharon Rocha said, her voice trem-bling at a news conference where the Carole Sund/Carrington Foundation formally pre-sented the reward, "You didn't, You did the right thing. For that we will be eternally

None of the five reward recipients attended the event, according to the Modesto (Calif.) Bee. But Rocha said their grisly discoveries along the shore of San Francisco Bay nearly two years ago brought a mea-sure of peace and closure to her family.

Scott Peterson, 32, Laci Peterson's hus-band, was convicted in November of murdering his pregnant wife and dumping her body in San Francisco Bay as he pretended to fish alone on Christmas Eve 2002

Triplet custody battle: A judge on Friday awarded final legal custody to a surrogate mother in Erie, Pa., who gave birth to trip-lets and then refused to give them up, say-

ing the biological father and his fiancee owed a lack of interest. In his ruling, Erie County Judge Shad Connelly said Danielle Bimber, 30, "is the

better caretaker by far." Connelly had already named Bimber the legal mother of the three boys, who were born Nov. 19, 2003, and granted her tempo-

rary primary custody last year.

Clergy sex abuse: The Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., has begun running ads in major U.S. newspapers alerting alleged victims of clergy sex abuse to an April 29 deadline to make claims in most cases

The \$250,000 worth of ads, required as part of the church's bankruptcy proceed-ings, will run in 21 newspapers, including The Wall Street Journal and USA Today, over the next three weeks

JonBenet Ramsev death: A federal judge



Falun Gong protest: A Taiwanese Falun Gong practitioner is handcuffed to a prison door Saturday during a skit held outside the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan About 3,000 Falun Gong members formed a human chain 4 miles long through Taipei on Saturday to protest persecution of the group's followers in China. The protesters, who constrated despite rain, dubbed their chain the "Great Wall of Justice," Beijing says Falun Gong is an "evil cult" that threatens to sabotage social order and has arrested thousands of followers since it outlawed the group in 1999.

has tossed out a lawsuit filed by the parents of JonBenet Ramsey against Fox News Channel, saying a network report unfavor-

able to the couple was not defamatory Judge Phillip Figa suggested that John and Patsy Ramsey seek vindication "in the court of public opinion.

In a ruling made public Friday, Figa said litigation in defamation cases could chill con-stitutionally protected free speech rights and because of that, the facts in such cases must be established with "convincing clarity."

The lawsuit was filed over a December

2002 story that aired around the six-year anniversary of the 6-year-old girl's slaving.

Military

Abu Ghraib abuse trial: A terror suspect captured by Navy SEALs in Iraq was able to walk on his own and was resisting his captors when the CIA took custody of him, according to a Navy officer who said he was the last SEAL to see the prisoner alive.

Testimony at a military hearing for a

Navy SEAL lieutenant charged with assault and maltreatment indicated that Manadel al-Jamadi died a short time later in the shower room of Abu Ghraib prison while he was being interrogated by the CIA.

Friday's testimony from a Navy SEAL lieutenant commander who oversaw the op eration to capture al-Jamadi contradicted statements about the operation by a dis-graced ex-SEAL. The former SEAL has stat-ed that the prisoner was "lifeless" when he was left at Abu Ghraib following a severe beating by the SEALs.

World

North Korea nuclear talks: A U.S. congressman who arrived in North Korea on Saturday said he will discuss the communist government's nuclear program and human rights issues during talks with officials in Pvongyang.
"I anticipate meeting with North Korean

officials, discussing about the nuclear program, hopefully their reintegration into the international community and human rights matters," said Congressman Tom Lantos, the ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee.

Lantos' trip comes days ahead of a sepa-rate visit by U.S. lawmakers. A bipartisan congressional delegation organized by Re-

publican Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania is to meet with high-ranking government officials and visit schools, shopping centers and other community areas in Pyongyang next

Pakistan violence: At least 11 people were killed in sectarian clashes in a northern Pakistan city on Saturday, prompting authorities to impose a curfew and summon

troops to restore order, officials said. The shooting and wounding of a promi-nent Shiite Muslim leader early Saturday triggered the violence between his support-ers and Sunni Muslims in the Himalayan city of Gilgit, about 150 miles north of the ital, Islamabad.

Hundreds of Shiites angered by the shoot-ing of cleric Agha Ziauddin and two of his security guards by unidentified gunmen as they traveled in a car had gone on a rampage, burning government buildings and at-tacking shops belonging to Sunnis, Police official Mohammed Sadaqat said.

African Union summit: African heads of state will meet in Nigeria later this month for a twice-yearly African Union summit that will focus on continent hotspots Congo, Sudan and Ivory Coast, officials said Satur-

All 53 African Union heads of state have been invited to the Jan. 30-31 summit in the capital, Abuja, said Nigerian foreign minis-try official Florentina Ukonga.

Sudan crisis: A southern Sudanese rebel

leader, speaking the day before he is to sign a historic peace agreement with the govern-ment, said Saturday he will not send his forces to fight in the western Darfur region to end a worsening crisis there.

John Garang, leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, said

that despite the peace deal he has reached with the government after 21 years of civil war, he does not con-



sider his country to be at peace until all fighting has stopped.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

3 senior officials abducted

Iraqis: U.S. attack killed 14, wounded 5

BY DUSAN STOJANOVIC

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Militants abducted three senior Iraqi officials, beheaded a man do worked for the U.S. military and killed at least eight others, officials said Saturda, a day after a U.S. general warned that insurgents may be planning "horrific" attacks ahead of Jan. 30 elections. Also Saturday, an explosion at a house

Also Saturday, an explosion at a house south of Mosul killed 14 people and wounded five early Saturday, and the owner blamed a U.S. air attack. A U.S. military spokesman said the Americans were compiling information on the incident and

would have a statement later Saturday. The house owner, Ali Yousef, said the airstrike happened at about 2:30 a.m. in this village 30 miles south of Mosul. American troops immediately came and surrounded the area, blocking access for four hours.

The brick house was reduced to a pile of rubble, according to an Associated Press photographer at the scene. By evening Saturday, all 14 dead had been buried in a nearby company. You see feath

nearby cemetery, Yousef said.
Air Force Brig. Gen. Erv Lessel, deputy chief of staff for strategic communications in Iraq, said Friday the United States has no intelligence indicating specific plots by the militants. But he said American leaders expected a rise in attacks.

"I think a worst case is where they have a series of horrific attacks that cause mass casualties in some spectacular fashion in the days leading up to the elections," Lessel said.

The escalating insurgency in Iraq is believed to be led by minority Sunnis, who dominated the country during Saddam Hussein's regime. The militants are against a the landmark election later this month.

In the election — the first democratic vote in Iraq since the country was formed in 1932 — the Sunnis are certain to lose their dominance to the Shiites, who comprise 60 percent of Iraq's 26 million peo-



Iraqi policemen and residents gather around the bullet-riddled vehicle of municipal council member Majid Hilal al-Tamimi in the southern city of Basra on Saturday. Al-Tamimi was seriously injured and one of his guards was killed after unknown assailants opened fire at them outside the city hall.

This week has seen a string of assassinations, suicide car bombings and other assaults that killed nearly 100 people, mostly Iraqi security troops, who are seen by the militants as collaborators with the Ameri-

can occupiers.

Authorities in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit said Saturday that gummen abducted a deputy governor of a central Iraqi province, two other senior officials and their driver as they were returning from a meeting with Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most prominent Shite leader, in the holy city of Najaf to discuss national elections.

The delegation was stopped and the members kidnapped about 40 miles south of Baghdad on Friday. The area is in the so-called "triangle of death," a string of Sunni-controlled towns that have been the scene of frequent attacks.

The U.S. military said the delegation was traveling in two cars of which one managed the escape militants' ambush.

"Those insurgents and terrorists who intimidate and resort to kidnapping public officials are the true enemies of the Iraqi people," said U.S. military spokesman Maj. Neal O'Brien.

Meanwhile, an official with Iraq's Interior Ministry said the ministry has launched a search operation for a missing French journalist and her translator, amid a possible witness account that they were abducted in downtown Baehdad.

Florence Aubenas, a reporter for the daily newspaper Liberation, and translator

Hussein Hanoun al-Saadi were last seen Wednesday morning leaving Aubenas' hotel in the Iraqi capital.

The Interior Ministry official said that so far they have no information or leads on their whereabouts.

"We have formed a fact-find working team to gather information" about the Aubenas and al-Saadi, the official said on condition of anonymity.

In Baqouba, insurgents beheaded a translator who was working with the U.S. army after breaking into his house, police said Saturday. An Iraqi policeman was killed by masked gummen as he was leaving his house the southern Dora neighborhood of Baghdad.

Col. Khamees Jassim Khirbit, a ranking police official in the tense city of Ramadi was gunned down and his car was set ablaze, police said. Another senior police official, Lt. Col. Abed Ahmed, who supervised police operations in the volatile Anbar province, was shot dead on a street in central Ramadi.

A booby-trapped car blew up Saturday at a gas station in Mahaweel, about 35 miles south of Baghdad. One man was killed and several others were injured, police said.

In Baghdad's western neighborhood of Khadraa, gumen killed Abboud Khalaf al-Lahibi, deputy secretary-general of the National Front for Iraqi tribes — a group representing several Iraqi tribes — the aide, Ibrahim al-Farhan, said. A bodyguard was killed and three others wounded in the attack, he said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Pre

As of Friday, at least 1,350 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,056 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military

The AP count is eight higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. Friday.

The British military has reported 76 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia one death each.

death each.
Since May 1, 2003, when President
Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,212 U.S. military members have died, according to
AP's count. That includes at least 947
deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

No deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department and the Louisiana National Guard:

Killed Thursday by a roadside bomb in northwest Baghdad; assigned to the Army National Guard, 256th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, Lafayette, La.:

■ Army Spc. Bradley Bergeron, Houma, La. ■ Army Sgt. Christopher Babin,

Army Sgt. Christopher Babin, Houma, La.

■ Army Pfc. Armand Frickey, Houma, La. ■ Army Spc. Warren Murphy, Mar-

rero, La.

Army Spc. Huey Fassbender,

LaPlace, La.

Army Sgt. 1st Class Kurt Comeaux,
Raceland, La.

Raceland, La.

Killed Tuesday in Taji, Iraq, when an
explosive detonated near their vehicle:

Army Snc. Jimmy D. Buie. 44 Flo-

Army Spc. Jimmy D. Buie, 44, Floral, Ark; assigned to the National Guards 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Fordyce, Ark.

Army Spc. Joshua S. Marcum, 33,

Evening Shade, Ark.; assigned to the National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment, 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Camden, Ark.

Army Spc. Jeremy W. McHalffey.

Tantry Regment, 39th Innanty Brigade
Combat Team, Camden, Ark.
■ Army Spc. Jeremy W. McHalffey,
28, Mabelvale, Ark.; assigned to the National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade,
Little Rock. Ark.

■ Marine Sgt. Zachariah S. Davis, 25, Twentlynine Palms, Calif; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

■ Marine Lance Cpl. Julio C. Cisneros Alvarez, 22, Pharr, Texas; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Army Sgt. Bennie J. Washington, 25, Atlanta; died Tuesday in Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio of injuries sustained Oct. 14 in Ramadi, Iraq, when his vehicle was struck by a grenade; assigned to the 44th Engineer Battalion, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze. Korea.

Army Pfc. Curtis L. Wooten III, 20, Spanaway, Wash: died Tuesday in Balad, Iraq, when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

No bombshells in U.N. oil-for-food audits

BY KEN GUGGENHEIM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United Nations' long-secret internal audits on the oil-foreod program do not reveal any bombshells, investigators told congressional aides Friday ahead of next week's release of the reports.

The 56 audits have been a source of contention between the United Nations and members of Congress examining allegations of corruption in the program. U.N. officials have declined to release the audits while a three-member commission appointed by Secretary-General Kofi Annan conducts its own investigation.

That refusal made lawmakers suspi-

cious that the audits pointed to widespread problems. It also contributed to criticism of Annan over the program and to one senator's calls for his resignation.

The commission, headed by former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, announced Friday that it would release the reports to the public Monday. Volcker is expected to issue a preliminary report this month that will include an analysis of the audits.

Two congressional aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, said congressional staff members were told by Volcker's investigators that the audits didn't reveal rampant corruption.

In an interview with The New York Times published Friday, Volcker was quoted as saying the audits 'don't prove anything.' There's no flaming red flags in this stuff," he said.

The \$60 billion oil-for-food program was created as a humanitarian exemption to sanctions imposed on Iraq after the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Beginning in 1996, it allowed Saddam Hussein's government to sell oil and use the proceeds to buy food, medicine and other items.

The program is widely credited with preventing starvation in Iraq, but investigations by congressional auditors and CIA weapons inspector Charles Duelfer found that it was riddled with corruption. They said Saddam received kickbacks and bribed U.N. and foreign government officials in an attempt to build political momentum against the sanctions.

Mobile assault platoons keep roads safe

Marines patrol roads between Hit and Hadithah for insurgent activity

BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Stars and Stripes

HADITHAH, Iraq — Marines are aggressively targeting insurgents who plant roadside bombs and land mines along what's called the "Hit-Hadithah Corridor," a strategic stretch of desert roads running along the Euphrates River northwest of Falluiah.

The roads are used by both sides in the conflict: the U.S. military runs patrols and supply convoys; the insurgents use them to transport money, fighters and munitions in Al Anbar province.

Assembled in mobile assault platons, or MAPs, Marines from the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment spend long, cold partols keeping the routes clear. From Humwees on the roads or observation posts on high ground overlooking the corridor, the Marines watch for people planting roadside bombs or other explosive devices.

And increasingly, they look for suicide car bombers.

"That's the only thing left of that guy," said Sgt. William Henderson, platoon sergeant of MAP 3, pointing to charred bits of twisted metal off the side of the road Thursday. The day before, a sedan painted with the orange-and-white markings of Iraqi taxicabs detonated as a U.S. convoy passed.

In that attack, only the suicide bomber was killed.

On a typical patrol, the MAP teams spend 12 hours combing the roads, checking for indications of freshly laid munitions and searching suspect vehicles. The insurgents, Marines say, tend to strike in the same spots, so careful attention is paid to several intersections and stretches of

On Thursday, a howling, bitterly cold wind made for a long patrol for MAP 3. Henderson and Cpl. Ben McGuire, a 25-year-old from Red Oak, Texas, took turns halting traffic while other Marines inspected the routes. Several times, warning shots were fired at vehicles acting erratically or getting too close to the Marines.

"I don't worry about the mortars or the IEDs. I worry about the VBIEDs," the military's acronym for vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices, said Lance Cpl. John Knepper, a 20-year-old from Austin, Texas.

Knepper has seen firsthand what the car bombs can do. A few weeks back, a suicide bomber detonated less than 30 yards from a group of Marines, several were injured by shrapnel, but most were saved from serious injury by a thick stone wall.

"That was the biggest explosion I've ever seen. It was incredible," said Knepper, who still has pieces of shrapnel in his arm from a land mine encountered on a different patrol.

Late in the afternoon, the Marines of MAP 3 pulled off the roads and patrolled near an old Iraqi military outpost. Nearby, then found a terrain model made of small stones on the desert floor; an arrow pointed north, and other lines of stones formed buildings and roads. The Marines guessed it was made by insurgents.

gents.

The patrol then occupied a strategic overlook, using high-powered optics to watch the traffic below. Traffic in the area has picked up in recent days, the Marines said, as many locals start the Hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.



PHOTOS BY JOSEPH GIORDONO

Above: Marines from Mobile Assault Platoon 3 check out a terrain map they found in the desert near Hadithah, Iraq, northwest of Fallujah. They suspect it is used by insurgents to track U.S. military movements and plan attacks. Right: Sgt. William Henderson, of the 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, keeps an eye on roads near Hadithah.

The Marines watched for people dropping or burying explosive devices on the roads, and also for vehicles bearing the hallmarks of car bombs: erratic driving, single occupants, cars riding low to the ground.

They radioed suspicious vehicles to a nearby sniper team, also tracking the roads and ready to stop anyone wanting to make this piece of the corridor a little more dangerous.

e-mail Joseph Giordono at: giordonoj@pstripes.osd.mil



Bombs can wrack troops' nerves as well as bodies



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Pvt. Richard Martinez of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, holds up three pieces of a 152 mm artillery round that blew up alongside of his patrol recently. None of the soldiers were injured nor were any of their vehicles damazed.

BY JASON CHUDY Stars and Stripes

BAGHDAD, Iraq — When a vehicle patrol from Company B of the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment was struck by a roadside bomb Tuesday morning, the soldiers — none of whom were injured in the blast — literally picked up the pieces of the artillery round and moved on.

The platoon didn't have time to dwell on the incident; the patrol schedule wouldn't allow it.

"We've still got to continue doing patrols," said Pfc. John Howell, a machine gunner on the Humvee closest to the explosion. "So that takes priority."

But just because there were no physical injuries does not mean the soldiers were not affected by the explosion. Army officials know soldiers can be rattled by the blasts, and their performance harmed.

"Early on we kept a big eye on" the soldiers on patrol after a bomb went off, said Company B 1st Sgt. Freddy Krail. "[Roadside bombs] are not a common thing, but they've happened before."

Now, he said, the unit, deployed to Iraq from Fort Hood, Texas, relies on the noncommissioned officers at the platoon level to notify leaders if any problems develop. They have the closest day-to-day interaction with the junior soldiers and will best notice any changes in them.

"[If they say] the soldier needs to talk to someone about it, we trust their instincts," Krail said.

Many of the soldiers let Tuesday's bombing pass without much discussion. That patrol is over and they had another to run less than eight hours.

"I really don't talk about it unless someone brings it up," said Spc. George Ernie. When the soldiers do talk about

similar incidents, the discussion ranges from casual to cautious. "Nobody jokes about it," said Ernie. The stakes are too high to take the bombs too lightly. Company B has not suffered a

company I has not suntered a casualty to a roadside bomb, Krail said. "I think not having had a casualty yet has lent itself to the soldiers not being happy [about being possible targets], but not being fearful about traveling through their sectors," he said.

That evening another patrol—with mostly the same soldiers as the early morning run—went out to that same area. The soldiers didn't dwell on the chance of there being another bomb.

"The possibility of one being out there is always there," said Ernie. "It's not something we really think about."

The soldiers just hope that they make it safely through their remaining tour in Iraq.

"The insurgents only have to be lucky once," said Sgt. Michael Wilbanks. "We have to be lucky every day. That's the unfortunate truth."

E-mail Jason Chudy at:

GI acquitted of manslaughter in drowning

BY ANGELA K. BROWN The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas - A U.S. Army sergeant was acquitted Fri day of involuntary manslaughter in the alleged drowning of an Iraqi civilian who was forced into the Tigris River by U.S. soldiers

for violating curfew. The jury, however, convicted Army Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, 33, of assault in the January 2004 incident

Defense attorneys contended the victim may still be alive, but say if he is dead, it was not at the hands of U.S. soldiers.

The jury of Army officers and enlisted members, who deliberated 17 hours over two days, were allowed to consider lesser charges against Perkins, who has been

But soldier is guilty of assault in Tigris River incident

in the military for 14 years. Perkins and another soldier were accused of ordering soldiers

to push two Iraqis into the river in Samarra. Prosecutors say Zaidoun Hassoun, 19. drowned and cousin, Marwan Hassoun climbed out

Hassoun tes

the river.

tified that he and his cousin were detained while driving back to Sa-

marra with plumbing supplies, then forced at gunpoint into the river as U.S. soldiers laughed.

He said he tried to save his cousin by grabbing his hand, but the powerful current swept Zaidoun away. Marwan said the body was found in the river nearly two weeks later

But three soldiers called by the defense testified that they were looking through night-vision equipment that night and saw two Iraqis on the river bank after the incident.

Set. Irene Cintron, an Army investigator, testified that government officials never had Zaidoun's body exhumed for testing because of security concerns. She

said she could not confirm whether the corpse shown in a video provided by the family was Zaidoun's.

Perkins was convicted of as sault consummated by battery in Zaidoun's purported death, which carries a maximum sentence of six months. He was convicted of aggravated assault in connection with Marwan Hassoun.

Perkins also was convicted of obstruction of justice and aggravated assault for ordering a soldier to throw another Iraqi man into the river in December 2003 near Balad.

The sentencing phase of the trial was scheduled to begin Saturday. Perkins' penalty ranges from no punishment to 11 1/2 years.

Defense attorney Capt. Josh Norris said in closing arguments that the soldiers were trying to find non-lethal ways to deter crime and establish respect in the hostile area

No soldiers disputed that the two Iraqis were forced into the river. Soldiers testifying for the prosecution and defense said they never heard Perkins order the Iraqis into the river and that he stayed in his vehicle that night.

The soldiers said the orders came from Army 1st Lt. Jack Saville, the platoon leader, who is to be tried in March on the same charges as Perkins - as well as a conspiracy charge. His trial was postponed until March after a judge ordered the victim's body to be exhumed for an autopsy and identification.

Afghan judge detained for terror connections

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan - Afghan authorities have arrested a judge in connection with the car-bombing of a U.S. security company that killed at least 10 people, and suspect the attack was ordered by an Iraqi al-Oaida member, a senior official said Saturday.

Three Americans were among





those killed in the Aug. 29 blast outside the office of Dyncorp, an American contractor which provides bodyguards for President Hamid Karzai and trains Afghan police

Nagibullah, a 65-year-old pre liminary court judge, was detained about two weeks ago after two men accused of organizing the bombing told investigators they had lodged at the judge's house in the Afghan capital, said Gen. Abdul Fatah, a senior Afghan prosecutor

"He is accused of two things. First he let the terrorists stay in his house Second he was aware of their activities but didn't inform anyone," Fatah told The As-

Nagibullah, who like many Afghans goes by one name, was the head of a preliminary court in the Panjshir Valley, north of Kabul, Fatah said.

Intelligence officials have identified the alleged ringleader of the car-bombing, and of an Oct. 23 suicide attack on a Kabul street which killed an American woman and an Afghan girl, as Mohammed Haidar

Haidar, a Tajik national, has allegedly confessed to orchestrating both attacks. Fatah said an accomplice Abdul Abad was arrest. ed along with him. Both Ahad and Nagibullah hail from the same district of Afghanistan's Kapisa province, he said

The suicide bomber and the wo organizers "stayed in his (Naqibullah's) house all the time from the beginning to the end of their mission," spanning both attacks, Fatah said

Intelligence officials have said that Haidar organized the attacks on the instructions of a suspected al-Oaida member named Attaullah based in Peshawar, in neighboring Pakistan

Fatah said Attaullah was an Iraqi national and identified the suicide bomber as a Kashmiri named Akbar.

Helping out Iragi children



The Al Salama Organization, in coordination with the 1st Infantry Division-led Task Force Danger, delivers clothes, toys and other items donated by U.S. citizens to families in Kirkuk, Iraq, last week. Al Salama is Iraq's version of The Salvation Army, and it received the supplies through Operation Crayon, a program started to school materials for Iraqi children. It delivered 300 packages last week and is to hand out an additional 300 to 500 packages in the next 20 days.

Jury selected for trial of alleged ringleader of Abu Ghraib abuse

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas - The 10 men picked as jurors in the first Abu Ghraib prison abuse trial have all served in either Iraq or Afghanistan

The four officers and six enlisted soldiers will hear opening statements Monday in the court-martial of Spc. Charles Graner Jr., the reputed ringleader of the scandal. All are also stationed at Fort Hood

They will determine whether Graner, 36, of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, was illegally beating inmates or following orders to soften up the detainees for interroga-

... 'We could not pick a truer jury

of peers than to have a combat veteran tried by combat veterans, defense attorney Guy Womack said.

Womack plans to argue Graner was told by higher-ranking soldiers and intelligence agents to rough up the detainees and had no choice but to obey.

Graner, shown in some of the notorious photographs taken inside the Baghdad prison, was upbeat

after the jury was picked Friday. Under military court rules, Graner can be convicted only if at least seven of the jurors vote guilty on charges that include conspiracy to maltreat Iraqi detain-

ees, assault, dereliction of duty and committing indecent acts. Graner appears in one photo giving a thumbs-up behind a pile of naked Iragis. In another, he is cocking his fist as if to punch a de-

On Thursday night, Graner gave a different thumbs-up photo to Houston television station KTRK

This one showed a smiling Graner with his arms around the shoulders of two Iraqis in orange jumpsuits, while a third Iraqi kneeled in front.

Womack said the photo was taken with Graner's camera after the alleged abuse occurred. He said it was released after he and his client talked about how other photos from Abu Ghraib were taken out of context.

Prosecutors are not legally allowed to comment on the case

Army tries to help war-torn marriages

173rd to benefit with new camps and retreats

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — When mem-bers of the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) head to Afghanistan in a few months, they'll be facing hostile conditions thousands of miles from their fami-

But if local military leaders have their way, those soldiers won't be worrving about potentially hostile situations within their

families "A soldier who is confident in the state of their marriage is a solbetter dier." says Chaplain (Maj.) David Reauchamn of the 173rd Airborne Bri-



gade "From chaplain's viewpoint . what's going to last longer the Army career or the marriage Hopefully the marriage is going to last longer



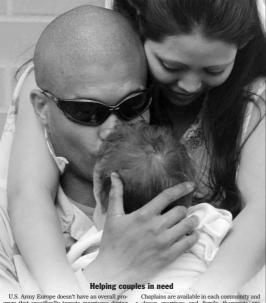
day's Army where long deployments seem to be a never-ending prospect, marriages are thought to be more at risk. However, neither the 173rd — which spent a year in Iraq be-fore returning last spring — SETAF, nor U.S. Army Europe keeps statistics on divorces to prove or disprove that theory.

Chaplain (Maj.) Leon Kircher, chaplain for the 22nd Area Support Group, which includes Vicenza, counseled some of the 173rd's couples who were having trouble during and after the deployment He said some relationships did end in divorce

"Not as many as I thought there could be," he said. "To say it was epidemic? No."

Both chaplains attribute that to a strong effort by the various agencies at Caserma Ederle charged with supporting families while troops are away. And both think the effort will be better for the upcoming deployment.

Chaplains will lead 300 couples representing about a quarter of those married in the brigade on overnight retreats at Lake Garda before the deployment. Col. Kevin Owens, the 173rd commander, allocated thousands of dollars from brigade funds to pay for the retreat. Younger enlisted



gram that specifically targets marriages during deployment.

But an array of new measures initialized while many of the Europe-based soldiers served in Iraq contain elements that could help couples in need

Counseling is available during the command's mandatory reintegration program. And block leave is designed to give families time to readjust. a dozen marriage and family therapists are spread out among the largest Army communities in Germany and Belgium

Area support groups and individual communities are tasked with most of the responsibility for creating and maintaining marriage-enrichment programs, which vary by location.

- Kent Harris

soldiers and their spouses will get most of the spots. expensive," Beauchamp

said. "But if we can save marriag-es, it's worth it." Those participating will focus on communication, forgiveness

and commitment, he said. Each partner will be given a commitment coin to carry during the deployment. "It'll be a reminder to them

that they've got responsibilities to-ward another person," he said. "Not only for the soldiers, but also their spouses

In fact, Beauchamp said every married couple in the brigade would get a chance to participate in a commitment ceremony and receive a coin. Those not on the retreats can participate at the base chanel. The Protestant Women of the Chapel is sponsoring an event targeting couples Jan. 21-22 that's called "Battle Proofing Your Marriage

During the deployment, Kirch-

er said chaplains will be working on both ends to help couples in need. He said it will be possible to arrange phone sessions to counsel both partners together or separately.

The chapel plans to hold weekly gatherings for spouses with free child care so moms - and dads - can get together to eat, talk, shop or visit local sights. Kircher said he hopes the informal gatherings will give spouses a chance to share problems and solutions with one another.

The chapel also will sponsor monthly retreats for spouses during the deployment, focusing on potential problems and solutions.

"It's like tuning up a car," Kircher said. "Sometimes you don't even realize it, but something could be wrong.

In the field, Beauchamp said he'll be leading a 40-week course using the best-selling inspirational book, "Purpose Driven Life." Kircher will be sending out concurrent messages to the community, so those on both sides can fol-

After the deployment, couples can participate in the Army's "Building Strong and Ready Families" program. Dozens participated after the last deployment, Reauchamn said And the chanlains hope there will be more opportunities this time if there's a

Kircher said commanders realize that helping soldiers keep good relationships with their spouses has become a key part of the deployment process

"One thing that weighs on a soldier's mind is if their family is being taken care of," he said. "When they're out on a patrol or inspecting something, you don't want that to be the first thing on their minds. They've got to be focused on the job at hand."

E-mail Kent Harris at harrisk@mail.estripes.osd.mil

\$2 million being spent on spouse programs

BY KIMBERLY HEFLING The Associated Press

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky. - With studies showing divorce rates as high as 21 percent among couples where one spouse has been sent off to war, the Army is spending \$2 million on a variety of marriage programs, including vouchers for romantic getaways to plac-

es like the Opryland 44 I've been Hotel in Nashville in the Tenn Army 20

Set. Jose uears. Bermudez returned and I've from Irag never early this he seen the came home to a new Armybaby and a pay for marriage. "We were programs on the brink

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under age

Mandy Bermudez ac-Lt. Col. edged Chester Feert the couple chanlain ate lunch refor the Fort cently with Camphell-hased their three 101st Airborne children, all Division

like this ??

The Bermudezes were among 300 couples with the Fort Campbell-based 101st Airborne Divi-sion who have attended "marriage enrichment" seminars put on by the Army in hopes of saving war-ravaged relationships.

"I've been in the Army 20 years, and I've never seen the Army pay for programs like this,' said Lt. Col. Chester Egert, chaplain for the 101st.

One program being implemented Army-wide teaches couples forgiveness and the skills to communicate.

It includes a 40-hour course with lessons on the dangers of alcohol and tobacco and how to recognize post-traumatic stress

Soldiers who complete it are rewarded with promotion points and a weekend retreat with their

"If you learn those skills, you can make an impact on the number of divorces, and the number, we think, of reports of physical violence," said Col. Glen Bloomstrom, director of ministry initiatives for the Chief of Chaplains.

Lawmaker seeks name recognition for Marine Corps

BY LEO SHANE III Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON - A North Carolina congressman wants to change the Department of the Navy's name so that Marines including those at two bases in his district, get full credit for their importance to national defense.

A bill proposed this week by Rep. Walter Jones, R-N.C., would rename the agency to "The Department of the Navy and Marine Corps." He says the change would clarify the corps' position as the fourth major defense branch, instead of implying that the Marines are somehow below the Army, Air Force and Navy.

"There isn't a subordinate rela tionship between the Chief of Naval Operations and the Commandant of the Marines Corps," Jones said. "They are equivalent parts of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and it is time that the Department

of the Navy recognizes their equal status Jones has brought up the issue

in the last two legislative sessions, only to see the proposal stall in committee hearings before the full House of Representatives could vote on the measure.

Marine Corps officials had no comment on the legislation. Capt. Kevin Wensing, spokesman for Navy Secretary Gordon England, said the secretary has deflected the issue in the past, saying that he is honored to serve no matter what the department's name is. But Wensing said England fre-

quently jokes that Marines he has spoken with are opposed to the "They think he should be 'Sec-

retary of the Marine Corps and Navy," he said. "They want top billing."

E-mail Leo Shane at:





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The USS John C. Stennis, shown conducting missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, is currently traveling from its former home in San Diego to its future home at Naval Base Kitsap in Bremerton, Wash.

USS John C. Stennis en route to new homeport in Bremerton

BY MELANTHIA MITCHELL The Associated Press

SEATTLE - As the USS Carl Vinson prepares to leave its homeport in Bremerton, the USS John C. Stennis is sailing in to take its place, bringing with it thousands of sailors and their families from its former base at San Diego.

"With the Vinson leaving, they wanted to replace it with another carrier," Navy spokeswoman Chief Petty Officer Jeri Robinson said, noting the Stennis is expected to remain at Naval Base Kitsap for about 10 years. Its strike group, however, will remain near San Diego at Naval Air Station North Island

The aircraft carrier has spent the past six years in San Diego, where it departed Wednesday for its four-day journey north to its new home at the Bremerton base, across Puget Sound from Seattle.

The Nimitz-class carrier's planned arrival Saturday is also nart of a regular rotation through.

out the fleet. During its first 10 months, the Stennis will be moved to a dry dock at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard for long-awaited maintenance and updates, Robinson said.

The Stennis, commanded by Capt. David H. Buss, brings with it more than 2,500 sailors, over half of whom have families who have been moving to the Kitsap Peninsula since May.

Coordinating the move of so many people during the holidays and in the midst of a school year was a challenge, said Beth Wiruth, the carrier's command ombudsman, who moved in Au-

"It's like moving a whole city. There's over 6,000 people involved when you move the sailors and their families," Wiruth said from her new housing at Naval Submarine Base Bangor, about 10 miles north of Bremer-

The long stay will be a welcome reprieve for Wiruth and her husband, Petty Officer 1st Class Scott Wirnth an electronbat systems. The couple has moved five times in the 18 months they've been married, with him gone 70 percent of the

"I cannot wait to see that ship come around the bend," said Wiruth, who last saw her husband in November when the Stennis returned from a five-month deployment in the western Pacific. Other families have yet to be reunited.

"For many of these families, this is homecoming," she said.

The 1.092-foot Stennis recently participated in the Navy's new Fleet Response Plan. Exercises this summer had seven of the Navy's 12 carrier strike groups deployed simultaneously to test the feasibility of having multiple detachments at sea.

The USS Carl Vinson, based at Bremerton since 1997, this month begins a six-month deployment in the western Pacific. In November, the aircraft carrier and its 3,200 sailors head for Newport News, Va., for a 3 1/2-year refueling overhaul.

Fort Benning insurance refunds

ATLANTA - A Texas-based insurance company has been ordered to refund \$1.3 million to Fort Benning, Ga., soldiers who were improperly sold life insurance policies.

American-Amicable Life Insurance Co. of Texas will refund money from premiums paid by about 900 active-duty soldiers at Fort Benning, said Georgia Insurance Commissioner John Oxendine, who ordered the refunds Friday. The policies were sold during 2002.

Refunds will include all sales of the Horizon Life policies, Oxendine said. The amounts of the refunds will depend on how much the soldiers paid

Oxendine said the insurer broke federal and state rules against acting like disinterested financial planners while selling policies to soldiers in training.

Nuclear sub runs aground

HONOLULU A nuclear submarine ran aground about 350 miles south of Guam, injuring several sailors, one of them critically, the Navy said There were no reports of damage to the USS San Francisco's reactor plant, which was operating nor-

Jon Yoshishige, a spokesman for the U.S. Pacific Fleet based at Pearl Harbor, said the Friday afternoon incident is under investigation and the 360-foot submarine was headed back to its home port in

Details on the sailors' injuries were not immediately available. The sub has a crew of 137, officials

Military and Coast Guard aircraft from Guam were en route to monitor the submarine and assist if needed, the Navy said.

From The Associated Press

IN THE WORLD

Visitors complicate aid as toll passes 150,000

BY JOCELYN GECKER

The Associated Press

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia— Rescue workers extracted thousands of corpses from the mud and debris of tsunami-devastated coastal towns in Indonesia, pushing the rising death toll from the Asian disaster past 150,000 on Sat-

Two weeks after walls of water flattened wide swaths of Indonesia's Sumarta island, people were still emerging from isolated villages, looking hungry and haunted Staggered by the scale of the disaster, aid officials described plans to feed as many as 2 million survivors a day for six months.

Two Indonesian navy amphibious vessels pulled up on the beach Saturday among the wreckage of smashed boats. Hundreds of refugees lined up on the beach to go inside and unload supplies in Calang, where the tsunami killed 80 percent of the residents. The Indonesian military set up two field hospitals, one with 50 beds, the other with 20. "The tragedy was terrible, but

onsidering this, the survivors here now are in pretty good shape," said Dr. Steve Wignall, an American who works for Family Health International and was making an on-the-ground assessment with several other aid work-

In other areas, victims were more vulnerable, though health officials said there were no signs yet of major outbreaks of diseases that they have feared.

As aid poured into a region long troubled by separatist violence. Indonesian soldiers resumed patrols in Aceh province searching for rebels. Skirmishes are stoking fears the conflict could hamper the relief effort by dozens of international aid groups.

Problems persisted in coordinating the humanitarian efforts. Aid groups complained that dignitaries flying in to see the devastation have choked the tiny main airport and hampered relief supplies.

Visits by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell shut Banda Aceh's airport temporarily for security reasons.

"It slows things down," said Maj. Murad Khan, a spokesman for Pakistan's Tsunami Relief Task Force.

U.S. officials disputed the alle-

gation, saying Powell's plane took offi immediately after dropping him off Wednesday so it wouldn't be in the way. He toured the area by helicopter, and Tim Gerhardson, a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, said aid shipments continued to flow during that time.

A delegation of U.S. congressmen traveled to Banda Aceh later Saturday. They came by helicopter from the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier so they wouldn't disrupt other flights.

Annan toured a town in Sri Lanka where hundreds of shoppers at an outdoor weekly market were swept to their deaths, but reluctantly agreed to a government request to bypass stricken areas controlled by Tamil Tiger rebels.

The Tigers, who have fought a 20-year war for Tamil independence from the Sinhalese-dominated south, invited Annan to tour the northern province. But government officials said they couldn't guarantee Annan's safety there.

"I'm concerned about everyone

with need in the humanitarian situation," Annan said. "But I'm also a guest of the government, and we'll go where we agreed we'll go."



Passing a tug boat that was washed up on a main coastal road by the massive Isunamis, a young girl carries supplies back to her village Saturday, just outside the capital of Aceh province in northwest Indonesia. The only road linking coastal cities on Sumatra was turned into an obstacle course by the Isunamis, complicating aid deliveries and turning what was a five-hour iourney into a three-day day trek for victims of the disaster.

World Bank considers increasing relief funds

The Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — The World Bank said Saturday it will consider significantly boosting its aid to countries stricken by the Asian tsunami. The World Bank has already pledged \$175 mil-

lion in assistance to the 11 countries in Asia and Africa hit by the Dec. 26 disaster, but bank President James Wolfensohn said he was flexible on the amount.

"We can go up to even \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion depending on the needs.... Our immediate focus is to provide relief to the affected people," he told a news conference at the end of a one-day visit to Sri Lanka, where more than 30,000 dies.

The Sri Lankan government estimates it will need between \$1.3 billion and \$1.5 billion to rebuild the country. A large portion of the funds is expected to come from foreign donors and multilater-



Two U.S. Marines from 9th Engineer Support Battalion survey the village of Pitiwella, near Galle, in southern Sri Lanka, on Saturday. The battalion is deploying about 250 Marines, along with bulldozers and dump trucks, to clear debris in the tsunami-ravaged coastal regions.

'An entirely different mission'

Marines helping to clear debris on Sri Lanka's coast

The Associated Press

HIKKADUWA, Sri Lanka — Lt. Col. Edmund Bowen is a seasoned Marine who has served in the Persian Gulf and Somalia. But he now finds himself playing the role of peacetime aid worker in Sri Lanka's tsumami-ravaged regions.

"This is a stable country. This is an entirely different mission," said Bowen, one of 54 Marines clearing debris Saturday near this tourist town in southern Sri Lanka. None carried weapons or wore body armor. Instead of helmets, they donned caps. The crew based in Okinawa. Japan, is among 250

The crew, based in Okinawa, Japan, is among 250 Marines sent by the 9th Engineer Support Battalion to take part in the massive relief effort in southern Sri Lanka. The USS Duluth was expected to arrive in a day or two with another 116 troops from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, Bowen said.

"Marines are compassionate. We fight by the laws of war. If we turn on our kinder side, we bring a tremendous amount of speed and capability to a relief operation," Bowen said.

The assistance is part of a regional effort by the U.S. military, which is also flying supplies to survi-

the epicenter of the undersea earthquake that triggered the tsunami.

On Saturday, Bowen and his crew chose to start work in the village of Pitiwella, which lost 16 of its 150 residents to the giant waves.

Framed photographs, fishing nets, bicycle wheels and slabs of concrete lay in the sand, as former residents watched the American bulldozer lumber over piles of rubble.

"it's good that the Marines are here. The damage is so bad that we can't do it alone," said D.V. Chaturanga, who lost his grandmother and his home. Other bystanders agreed, saying the U.S. forces were welcome.

With the help of a translator, Bowen talked to the community leaders, who asked that the debris be moved closer to the shoreline. Bowen described the decision as unsafe, saying another big wave would fling the rubble and endanger lives. But he agreed to their request when villagers said they had no plans to rebuild their homes in the same place because the government had forbidden it.

"This is a drop in the bucket," Bowen said, acknowledging the magnitude of the devastation.

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Ragged survivors flock to Indonesian town

80 percent of Calang population died but stragglers coming in

BY DENIS GRAY

CALANG, Indonesia — Not a single building is left standing in Calang, where the tsunami killed 80 percent of the residents.

But the population is even higher now than before the disaster as weary survivors with little more than the clothes on their backs trudge in from the countryside for help

Two weeks after walls of water flattened wide swaths of Indonesia's Sumatra island, people still are emerging from isolated villages, looking hungry and haunted by their experience.

Calang used to be a government center, about 5S miles southeast of Banda Aceh, before the tsunami flattened it, so it has become a natural magnet for refugees. While they are finding little more standing than in their home communities, the relief effort is mushrooming here.

Two Indonesian navy amphibious vessels were pulled up on the beach Saturday among the wreckage of smashed boats. Hundreds of refugees lined up on the beach to go inside and unload supplies.



Indonesian tsunami victims wait to be evacuated Saturday by Indonesian amphibious navy vessels in the destroyed town of Calang, 40 miles south west of Banda Aceh in the province of Aceh. Steve Wignall, a doctor for the Non Government Organization Family Health International, said that of Calang's population of 5,000, only 1,000 had survived.

The Indonesian military has set up two field hospitals, one with 50 beds, the other with 20

"The tragedy was terrible, but considering this, the survivors here now are in pretty good shape," said Dr. Steve Wignall, an American who works for Family Health International and was making an on-the-ground assessment with several other aid workers.

He estimated the town's pre-tsunami population at 5,000, but it was virtually wiped off the map, and only about 1,000 people survived. Some 6,000 refugees have come in from isolated communities, and one group had just straggled in after walking 30 miles, he said.

U.S. helicopter pilot Lt. Fred Morrison of Hatley, Pa., flew in directly from the carrier USS Abraham Lincoln to distribute 4,200 pounds of water in plastic containers to three different sites, including Calang, where the only thing left of the houses were the foundations

The second drop-off point was a small hillock set above what is now swampland. Refugees clinging to the outcrop came rushing down when the helicopter landed. The rest of the water went to a stretch of road that hadn't been destroyed by the stummi where about 100 villagers have set up

As the chopper headed back to the Lincoln, the crew spotted about 20 people on a road frantically waving, so they made a steep descent. Overcoming the language barrier, the survivors made their hunger clear by pointing to their stomachs and mouths. With nothing left to give, the heli-

copter took off again, noting the location.
"We're going to get water and food and return," said Petty Officer Sean Bascom of Moorpark. California.

Helicopters from the Lincoln carrier group delivered well over 125,000 pounds of food, water and other relief supplies, a record so far and way up from around 14,000 pounds on some early days, even though the same number of helicopters are being used.

Powell holds frank AIDS talk with Kenyan youths

44 More and more

people are

willing to

speak out

about this and

not hide.

Secretary of State

to Kenvan vouths on

Colin Powell

BY ANNE GEARAN
The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya — Promiscuity and other risky sexual behavior must change to stop the spread of AIDS in Africa, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Saturday. Young Kenyans, including an

Toung Kenyans, including an I1-year-old girl, had a frank discussion with Powell about promiscuity, resistance to condoms and the cultural expectation that young girls will have sex with much older men.

"Those sorts of patterns of behavior have to change to protect young people," Powell told the gathering

Powell told the gathering.
Powell is in Africa to attend a signing ceremony
ending north-south fighting
in Sudan. The two-decade-old conflict is Africa's
longest-running civil war.
Powell met with Kenyan
President Mwai Kibaki
after the AIDS round-table

Saturday.

The Sudanese peace accord does not address the more recent fighting and refugee crisis in Sudan's western Darfur region, which Powell has called genocide. He

planned to press Sudanese government leaders to resolve the Darfur crisis during the weekend meetings. About 7 percent of adult Kenyans are in-

About / percent of aduit kenyans are infected with HIV or have AIDS, a rate much higher than western nations but lower than some countries in southern Africa where 20 percent or more of the population is infected.

"Africa, I think, for too long a period of time ignored the problem, looked the other way and said 'No, this isn't happening here.' " Powell said.

He criticized African countries, without naming them, that denied AIDS was a problem. Powell also noted former South African President Nelson Mandela's disclosure this week that his son died of complications

"More and more people are willing to speak out about this and not hide," Powell said.

AIDS kills more than 600 people every

AIDS kills more than 600 people every day in South Africa.

Mandela's successor

Thabo Mbeki, once denied knowing anyone who had died of the disease.

Powell sat in a circle with 19 Kenyans, most in their teens and 20s, who work to prevent HIV transmission among their peers. The discussion included blunt discussion included blunt discussion included blunt discussion in excula and cultural practices, in-cluding what 24-year-old Boniface Menedwa described as social pressure for young women to have sex with "people we call sugar daddies."

nation's AIDS problem sugar daddies."
Older men are much more likely than young cide. He girls or women to carry the disease, and ermment is during source of transmission in Kenya and else-

"Are you getting through to the young people, or do you say you're square?" Powell asked.

Reception is better now than it used to be, Powell was told.

Abstinence, faithfulness to a single partner and condom use are discussed much more openly than a few years ago, and more Kenvans are open about their HIV



U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell talks to young Kenyans about HIV and AIDS at a hotel in Nairobi, Kenya, on Saturday.

status. At least one of the young women who spoke to Powell on Saturday is HIV

positive.

The anti-AIDS message starts early.
Eleven-year-old Grace Gathoni is a member of the Brownie patrol at her elementa-

She came to the meeting dressed in her

"We learn about HIV and AIDS, and sexually transmitted diseases" at school, she said. "We are also taught to value our virginity, our education and our life."

ginity, our education and our life."

Before arriving in Nairobi on Friday,
Powell spent five days touring countries
hit by last month's killer tsunami. He said
he will give President Bush a report Monday on the tsunami damage and U.S. aid to
the region.

Palestinians upset over travel trouble

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — International observers toured army roadblocks in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on Saturday, and Palestinian officials complained Israel isra't fully complying with promises to ease travel restrictions ahead of presidential elections to replace the late Yasser Arafat.

At one Gaza checkpoint, hundreds of cars were waiting early Saturday. Palestin-ians reported that a 60-year-old taxi passenger was killed by army fire at the barrier. The army said soldiers fired at a gunman approaching on foot

approaching on foot.

Later Saturday, traffic eased considerably at the Gaza checkpoint, but one driver said he had to wait for 25 minutes even when he was first in line.

Israeli military officials said efforts were

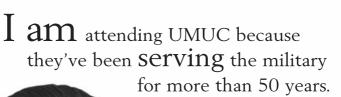
made to speed up passage through roadblocks, but that security remains the top pri-

On Friday, Palestinian gunmen killed a soldier and wounded three in an ambush near the West Bank city of Nablus, prompting Israel to warn Palestinian leaders that it would reconsider its promise if an easing of restrictions is exploited by militants.

Israel delivered the warning through international observers headed by former President Jimmy Carter and former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard, according to Israeli officials and a spokesman for Carter's team, Les Campbell.

Observer teams were touring checkpoints Saturday to see whether restrictions were being eased, Campbell said.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said nothing had changed on the ground. "I urge the Israeli government to honor its commitment to lift the siege and restrictions. This is really threatening to undermine free and fair elections," he said.



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IN THE STATES

Snow pounds Calif. as Ohio faces flooding

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Another winter blast spread rain and heavy snow across California on Saturday as residents of waterlogged areas that were stripped by wildfires braced for flash flooding and mudslides.

As much as 6 feet of snow was possible during the weekend in the northern Sierra Nevada, delighting skiers, while homeowners rushed to pile sandbags in Southern California, where some neighborhoods below the San Bernardino Mountains east of Los Angeles received more than a half-inch of rain every hour.

"I used to love the rain," said Dallas Branscone of San Bernardino County's Devore area. "Now, I dread all these storms."

In the East, heavy rain and snow that fell earlier in the week caused flooding along the Ohio River that was chasing some residents out of their homes in communities in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky. Meteorologists predicted the river would reach its highest level in eight years at Louisville, Ky.

The stormy weather had caused widespread power outages in parts of Ohio, and utilities said about 100,000 homes and businesses remained without electricity on Saturday.

California's latest storm arrived Thursday and wasn't expected to let up until Monday, the National Weather Service said.

The wild weather knocked out power for thousands of homes and businesses and blocked mountain roads. One person died in a sailboat smashed by wind and waves and two resort workers in the Sierra were found dead in a snow-covered car.



Homeowners were especially concerned in San Bernardino County foothill towns that were devastated by wildfires and mudslides in 2003.

"You can only do so much," said Thom Master of Devore. "If 2 feet of mud comes, these little sandbags aren't going to do much"

Along the Ohio River, hundreds of Ohio and West Virginia residents had evacuated their homes and stacked sandbags.

The river was nearly 4 feet above flood stage and still rising Saturday morning at Point Pleasant, W.Va., and was about? feet above flood stage but beginning to recede at Marietta, Ohio, the National Weather Service said. Downstream, it was expected to crest Tuesday at slightly more than 5 feet above at Cincinnati, the weather service said.

Water was 2 to 4 feet deep Saturday in

the streets of downtown Marietta, closing businesses.

Louisville had already closed part of its River Road and installed two of its flood gates, and the Caesars Indiana riverboat casino in Harrison County, Ind., was shut down. The expected 28-foot crest at Louisville, 5 feet over flood stage, would be the highest since the March 1997 flood.

People who live along the Ohio learn to cope with its floods.

"The first thing I do before I go is clean the fireplace" said Sherry Welch of Juniper Beach, Ky, who had friends helping her pack furniture into a truck Friday. "If you don't do that, water will come in and leave a ring all around the inside of your house like a great big ring around a bath-

"One year I had to move three times," she said as water lapped at the edge of her



AP priotos

Above: As a new round of storms hit the Sierra and Lake Tahoe, motorist Jesse Syfert tightens the chains on his car Friday in Meyers, Califf., before heading over Echo Summit on U.S. Highway 50 to the Bay Area. Left: Marietta City Auditor Sharon Adams makes her way past sandbags on Friday, as floodwaters closed in on downtown businesses in Marietta. Ohio.

Chemical threat from S.C. train wreck lingers

BY JENNIFER HOLLAND The Associated Press

GRANITEVILLE, S.C. — Toxic vapors from one of the nation's deadliest chemical spills in years will keep residents out of their homes until at least early next week as cleanup crews try to stop chlorine gas from leaking out of a wrecked train car.

At least eight people died and more than 250 were sickened after a freight train carrying the gas crashed early Thursday near a textile mill. The accident unleashed a greenish-yellow fog that seared people's eves and lunes.

About 5,400 residents within a one-mile radius of the crash were forced to evacuate, with authorities telling people Friday they would not be allowed to return until Tuesday at earliest. A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed within two miles of the wreck for fear that cool night air would cause the chlorine to settle close to the ground.

Authorities said all the deaths appeared to have been caused by the plume of gas that settled over its victims in their homes, their cars and the Avondale Mills textile plant. One of the dead was spotted by Gov. Mark Sanford, who flew over the site to survey the wreckage.

Two nine-member crews were working around the clock to apply a steel patch over a fist-sized hole in the train, said Aiken County Sheriff's Lt. Michael Frank. The work could take until late Saturday.

Workers also were to begin removing chlorine from two additional railroad tankers involved in the crash.

The accident happened about 2:40 a.m. Thursday when a Norfolk Southern freight

Chlorine gas cleanup

STAY AWAY: Toxic vapors from a deadly chemical spill will keep about 5,400 residents out of their homes until at least early next week.

WHAT NOW?: Environmental cleanup workers are trying to patch a hole in a freight train carrying chlorine gas that crashed early Thursday. FALLOUT: At least eight people died

FALLOUT: At least eight people died and more than 250 were sickened when the crash unleashed a greenish-yellow fog that smelled powerfully like bleach.

- The Associated Press

train carrying 42 cars struck a parked train at a crossing next to the plant, where

400 workers were on the night shift making denim and other fabrics. Monica Channey, 29, heard the boom at home when the trains collided but thought

nome when the trains contided but thought nothing of it at first. "It's always something with the trains or with the mill," she said. But when authorities came to evacuate

But when authorities came to evacuate her and her 12-year-old son and 10-year-old daughter, she bundled the children un "like mummies."

Channey had a scarf covering her mouth but could still smell the chlorine. "The fumes were like 'whoosh' — a bad ammonia, stronger than any cleaning solution," she said. "It took my breath away."

Five workers died at the mill. A man was found dead in a truck near the plant. Another man was found dead in his home. The train engineer died at a hospital.

Federal officials were investigating the cause of the wreck, but most officials were kept out of the area because of the toxic gas.



Sgt. David Turno, left, with the Aiken County Department of Public Safety, suits up Friday near the command center in Aiken, S.C. He was preparing to go into Graniteville to conduct a door-to-door search of homes near the train-crash site.

State and federal environmental officials have continued conducting air quality tests, finding either low levels or nothing at all a couple blocks away from the site. The crash site levels were higher.

"How high? We are not sure," state Department of Health and Environmental Control spokesman Thom Berry said. The levels exceed the monitor's limits. he said.

2005 shaping up as hectic year for Supreme Court

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court returns Monday with an ailing leader, pressure to rule quickly on the constitutionality of federal prison sentences and a slew of contentious issues to decide, from medical marijuana to Ten Commandment displays.

The most immediate concern is the health of Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, who was diagnosed with thyroid cancer in October. He has been working part time at the court for more than two weeks but still is too ill to return to the bench.

At 80, Rehnquist already was considered a top retirement prospect on a court that has had no turnover in a decade a record.

Besides Rehnquist, Justices John Paul Stevens, 84, and Sandra Day O'Connor, 74, are considered possibilities to leave this year.

In upcoming cases, justices could rule as early as this week on whether the longtime system for sentencing federal defendants should be thrown out because it lets judges, rather than juries, decide factors that add years to prison time. Many judges have delayed sentencings while awaiting the high court's decision.

Other major cases involve whether states can execute juvenile killers, whether the federal government can prosecute people who use marijuana medicinally, and whether states can bar interstate wine sales over the Internet.

Pitt, Aniston call it quits

Actors officially separate

BY JOHN ROGERS

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston have finally made official what was rumored for months - Hollywood's A-List couple is splitting up.

"We would like to announce that after seven years together, we have decided to formally separate," the couple said in a joint statement released Friday by Pitt's publicist, Cindy Guagenti.

"For those who follow these sorts of things, we would like to explain that our separation is not the re-sult of any speculation reported by the tabloid media. This decision is the result of much thoughtful consideration.

The couple didn't indicate if they planned to divorce, and Guagenti declined to comment beyond the statement, which also said, "We happily remain committed and caring friends with great love and admiration for one another."

The separation comes 41/2 years after the pair's storybook wedding and after months of tabloid speculation that their marriage was in trouble. In their statement, they asked for the public's

"sensitivity in the coming months." Pitt, 41, and Aniston, 35, have been together since

being set up on a blind date in 1998. They were married in a lavish wedding on July 29, 2000, on a Malibu estate overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

Until rumors began swirling that they were about to split, there were near-constant tabloid rumors that Aniston was pregnant. The actress had told People in 2002 that she and Pitt eventually wanted to



Brad Pitt and his wife, Jennifer Aniston, arrive for a screening of the film "Troy" at the Cannes Film Festival in France last year. Pitt and Aniston have split. Pitt's longtime publicist confirmed Friday.

Sen. Clinton's former finance aide indicted

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The finance director for Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton's 2000 campaign is charged in a federal indictment with intentionally understating contributions for a Hollywood fund-raising gala for the senator.

The four-count indictment, un-sealed Friday in Los Angeles, charged David Rosen with filing false reports with the Federal Election Commission.

The charges focus on an Aug. 12, 2000, dinner and concert sup ported by more than \$1.1 million "in-kind contributions" goods and services provided for free or below cost. The event was estimated to cost more than \$1.2

million The FBI previously said in court papers that it had evidence the former first lady's campaign deliberately understated its fund-raising costs so it would have more money to spend on her

campaign. While the event cost more than \$1.2 million, the indictment alleged, Rosen reported contribu-tions of about \$400,000, knowing

the figure to be false The indictment charged that he provided some documents to an FEC compliance officer but withheld the true costs of the event and provided false documents to substantiate the lower figure. In one instance, Rosen ob-tained and delivered a fraudulent

cert associated with the gala was \$200,000 when he know that figure was false, according to the indictment. The actual cost of the concert was more than \$600,000.

Each of the four counts of making a false statement carries a maximum penalty of up to five vears in prison and up to \$250,000 in fines upon conviction.

Rosen's attorney, Paul Mark Sandler, did not return a call asking for comment. Clinton's lawyer on campaign finance matters, David Kendall, said: "The Senate Campaign Committee has fully cooperated with the investigation. Mr. Rosen worked hard for the campaign, and we trust that when all the facts are in, he will be cleared

The businessman who hosted the event, Peter Paul, has told federal authorities that it cost more than \$1 million and that he had been surprised when he saw that most of the contributions were not reported.

The money from the fund-raiser went to Clinton's successful campaign for a Senate seat from New York, the Democrats' national Senate campaign organization and a state Democratic Party

committee.
The joint fund raising made the rules more complicated because the gala raised both "hard money" — funds given to candi-dates subject to federal limits — and "soft money" that was unregulated and unlimited under the former campaign finance law.

JFK's sister Rosemary, 86, dies at Wis. hospital

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - While Rosemary Kennedy spent much of her life shielded from the public eye, her struggles with mental retardation inspired her sister to encourage millions of mentally disabled athletes to publicly celebrate their differences.

Kennedy, the oldest sister of President John F. Kennedy and the inspiration for the Special Olympics, died Friday. She was 86

Kennedy, the third child of Rose and Joseph Kennedy, was born mentally retarded and underwent a lobotomy when she was 23. She lived most of her life in a Jefferson, Wis., institution, the St. Coletta School for Exceptional Children She died at Fort Atkinson Memo-

rial Health Hospital in Wisconsin with her brother Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and her sisters by her side, the family said in a statement "Rosemary was a lifelong iewel

to every member of our family," the statement said. "From her earliest years her mental retardation was a continuing inspiration to each of us and a powerful source of our family's commitment to do all we can to help all persons with disabilities live full and productive lives.

Rosemary Kennedy's condition became an inspiration to her

younger sister, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who founded the Special Olympics for mentally disabled athletes, and in 1984 she took over her sister's care after their mother had a stroke.

Rosemary's retardation be-came public in 1960, just after her brother John was elected president. The National Associa-tion for Retarded Children mentioned in a publication that the president-elect "has a mentally retarded sister who is in an institution in Wisconsin.'

Born Rose Marie Kennedy on Sept. 13, 1918, in Boston, she was known as Rosemary or Rosie to friends and family. In her own dia-ries before the lobotomy, she chronicled a life of tea dances. dress fittings, trips to Europe and a visit to the Roosevelt White House

But as she got older, her father worried his daughter's mild condition would lead her into situations that could damage the family's reputation

"Rosemary was a woman and there was a dread fear of pregnancy, disease and disgrace," author Laurence Leamer wrote in an unauthorized Kennedy biography.

Doctors told Joseph Kennedy that a lobotomy would help his daughter and calm her mood

Rosemary lived in several private institutions before her father placed her in St. Coletta, an hour west of Milwaukee.

First family shows off newest member



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush show off their new puppy, a Scottish terrier named Miss Beazley, on the South Lawn of the White House on Thursday afternoon. The White House's new resident was a gift to Mrs. Bush from the president for her 58th birthday in November, but the 10-week-old puppy had to wait until this week to move in. Although Scottish terriers are often aggressive with other dogs, there appeared to be no animosity between Miss Beazley and the older first dog, Barney, whose half brother is Mis Beazley's father. Barney gave his younger companion a few good sniffs, but they mostly roamed the grass and ignored each other — and the first lady's calls for them to come. "Behaves like Barney," the president said of the new pooch, recalling Barney's habit of ignoring commands from the president.

Study: Preemies often develop disabilities

More than half of 'miracle babies' are at risk for long-term problems

BY STEPHANIE NANO The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Tiny "miracle babies" make for heartwarming stories, but the reality is that nearly half of all infants born extremely premature have significant learning and physical disabilities by the time they reach school age, the largest such study found.

Medical advances have allowed doctors to save earlier and smaller babies. While some developmental problems are known to be common among such children, the long-term consequences were not entirely clear.

"We needed to have some idea of really what this group was like when they grew up," said one of the researchers, Dr. Neil Marlow, a neonatologist at the University of Nottingham in England.

Guidelines call for not resuscitating the most severely premature babies, but where to draw the line is a controversial and emotional decision. The study's findings may help guide doctors and parents about whether it is wise to use heroic measures.

"Parents need to go into this situation with their eyes wide open and with an open dialogue with their doctors as to what they should do." Marlow said.

Normal pregnancy is 37 to 42 weeks. Marlow and his colleagues looked at 241 children about 6 years old who had been born between 22 and 25 weeks. They found that 46 percent had severe or moderate disabilities such as cerebral palsy, vision or hearing loss and learning problems: 34 percent were mildly dis-

Preterm and disability linked

According to a recent study, nearly half of all infants born extremely premature have significantly more learning and physical disabilities by the time they reach school age than their classroom peers.

Extremely preterm Full term

Mild disability 18% Moderate disability 24%

Severe disability 22%

SOURCE: New England Journal of Medicine

abled; and 20 percent had no disabilities. Twelve percent had disabling cerebral palsy.

"This gives for the first time a real picture of what happens to these children who are at the lim-its of viability," said another re-searcher. Dieter Wolke of the University of Bristol in England.

Their findings are reported in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. The rate of premature births in

the United States has crept up in recent years, in part because of a rise in multiple births and older



March of Dimes/AF

Navy Anderson is seen Nov. 11, 1997, at University of Utah Hospital in Salt Lake City in an incubator, one week after being born prematurely.

"It's important to realize that prematurity is a major public health problem. One in eight babies are born prematurely," said Dr. Scott Berns of the March of

British researchers tracked all extremely premature births in Britain and Ireland over a 10-month period in 1995. Of those who were born live, only a quarter survived and eventually went home from the hospital — 1 percent of those born at 22 weeks; 11 nercent at 23 weeks: 26 nercent at 24 weeks; and 44 percent at 25 weeks.

The surviving children were tested at 21/2 years, and about a quarter had severe disabilities. They were evaluated again at about 6 years.

Standard intelligence tests

showed 21 percent of them had moderate or severe learning disabilities. That figure rose to 41 percent when compared to the test scores of a group of similar classmates who were born at full term

In an accompanying editorial. Drs. Betty Vohr of Women and Infants Hospital in Providence, R.I., and Marilee Allen of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, said the study shows the limits of what medicine can do.

They cited publicity about "miracle babies" as one reason parents might seek to have their very premature child resuscitated

"We wish they all were little miracle babies, but they're not.' Vohr said in an interview. Jamie Anderson of Logan.

Utah, had to make a quick decision right before her twins were

Rhinebeck,

N.Y., and her

22-month-old

in New York.

son, Reid

born at 23 weeks in 1997. She decided to have them resuscitated. although she knew the chances of survival were low and there was a risk of disabilities

Her son, born at 507 grams (1 pound, 2 ounces), died within hours. Her daughter, Navy, who was 620 grams (1 pound, 6 ounces) endured four months of onerations and blood transfusions before going home from the hospital.

"We were fortunate to have one survive, but we know what it's like to lose one," said Anderson, who will be sharing her experience as a March of Dimes ambassador this year.

As for her now 7-year-old daughter, Anderson said she is doing great with no complications and recently passed two milestones: learning to read and ride a

Theaters welcome babies to special screenings By MELISSA MANSFIELD

The Associated Press

RHINEBECK, N.Y. - Monte Romero sat on his mother's lap, looking up at the movie playing on the big screen and chomping on popcorn. After a few moments, he rubbed his eyes, hopped back out into the aisle and went exploring. The 2-year-old stopped and shouted, "Go! while pointing to the screen, then returned

Nobody shushed him. No rolled eyes or piercing stares accused Monte's mother, Marika, of ruining "Guerrilla: The Taking of Patty Hearst" by bringing along a toddler.

"See why you can't bring him to the mall?" Marika said, scooping him up onto her lap again. "He gets very excited."

The Romeros were at a "Bring Your

Own Baby" movie at Upstate Films, Joining small movie houses and national theater chains, the Rhinebeck theater has begun to show special screenings just for parents and children.

The first-run films are the same ones the theater offers the rest of the week. Patrons can pick up a bottle of ginger ale or root beer, a homemade cookie or popcorn with real butter. When the movie starts, the



lights dim, but do not turn off entirely. The soundtrack is loud enough to hear, soft enough for babies to sleep through.

Marika Romero recalled bringing Monte to a recent screening of "Ray," about music legend Ray Charles, at a regular theater. She hoped he would sleep if he got

"Once the first band started, he went 'Drums, mama! Drums!' " she said.

Curran, watch Monte Romero, 2, foreground, play Dec. 15 before the start of a "Bring Your Own Baby" movie at **Upstate Films**

The two spent the rest of the movie outside with the carpet sweepers

"I do miss the big screen," she sighed, as she waited for the matinee to start.

Unstate Films has shown three "Bring Your Own Baby" movies so far, with hopes of continuing the program through the

Parents pay regular matinee admission: the babies get in for free.

happy," said Steve Leiber, who co-founded the nonprofit arts organization with his wife Dede in 1972. "There is no one to say 'Shhhh ... be quiet.'

Leiher heard of other theaters with matinees for moms, and wanted to try it. "It gives us a chance to get the people who were moviegoers" before they had children

Midwestern chain Kerasotes Theatres holds "Matinee Movie Magic for Moms (and Dads)" weekly at four of its 75 theaters, featuring a stroller valet outside the theater to help accommodate the new parents

Cineplex Entertainment launched a program called "Reel Moms" three years ago, and now operates in 20 cities. Loews' spokesman John McCauley said, "The moms are also able to be very current, seeing the latest movies

Many of the moms who contact the company say they feel isolated after having children and it helps to interact with other new parents in a social setting.

"We get to bring moms together, going through the same life stage," he said.

REDSXWIN sparks rush on vanity plates

BY GLENN ADAMS The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Maine - New Englanders, almost as fond of their vanity license plates as they are of chowdah, lobstah and their beloved Boston Red Sox, are proclaiming pride in the World Series champions with car-bumper messages that drive the point

are a bit in-vour-face. such as WE WIN and VCTORY. Others are a little more subtle. such as ESRUC04, a Mainer's way of spelling out the reverse of the Curse. Others elated to see the Bambino's hex lifted asked for CURSE-NO and 1918+RIP.

The Red Sox had barely completed their four-game World Series sweep over the St. Louis Cardinals on Oct. 27 before the orders started coming in to Maine's Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Maine

"Within hours of the final out in Game 4 of the World Series, requests for Red Sox-related vanity plates began to arrive," said then-Secretary of State Dan Gwadosky. The BMV received more than 60 requests by the time a Nov. 9 order was submitted for plate production.

"Dozens of additional requests have been received since. The total probably exceeds 100 at this point, and counting," said Gwadosky, whose term was to end Fri-

One motorist requested FEN-WAY the venerable old ballnark that's home of the world champs. Variations from feminine Sox fanatics sought the monikers FNW-YCHK, BSTN-GRL and SOX CHIK. Another request seeks to identify a Mainer as part of a larger realm RDSXNTN or Red Soy Nation for the uninitiated

McKenney's



Avid Red Sox baseball fan Joyce McKenney of Richmond, Maine - who is wearing an anti-New York Yankees baseball cap - poses by her vanity plate Thursday.

SXWIN04, turned out to be confusing to some non-sports fans, who ask why it says "sex, wino, four," the Richmond, Maine, resident said

"Sports people, they love it. They think it's awesome," said McKenney, who watches every Red Sox game on TV or listens on the radio. "It's people who have no clue about sports who sit there and scratch their heads

Another Maine fan's request for OREDSOX reflects the sweet satisfaction of a series championship after a seemingly endless 86-year wait — or maybe it's just an Irish spin on the team's name.

Fans who don't want anyone to forget that sweep over St. Louis ordered SOXIN4 and REDSOX-4.

A dozen Rhode Islanders asked for Red Sox vanity plates after the team's first World Series championship since 1918, said Nancy Tracy of the state's DMV. Some of their requests are RD-SXFN, RDSX04, WE WIN and VC-

The rush for Red Sox vanity plates was not nearly so intense in their home state, where only eight were ordered after the se-

In Connecticut, there's no way to tell how many Sox fans paid extra for vanity plates commemorating the World Series champs, motor vehicle spokesman Bill Sey-

mour said. "There are too many possibilities that could be associated with that," Seymour said

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Connecticut motorists can display plates that benefit Long Island Sound, child safety and pet care, but the state has no official license plate honoring the Red Sox. Massachusetts has its Red Sox "Jimmy Fund" plates. In Maine, a bill submitted to the Legislature seeks a special Red Sox

Officials in New Hampshire's motor vehicle agency didn't re-turn phone calls. The Granite State is among those with an online service through which motorists can see if the vanity plates

they choose are already taken. Interest in Red Sox vanity plates isn't limited to New En-

Nearly 100 New Yorkers who pledge no allegiance to the Yankees applied for vanity plates with messages about the Red Sox in the month after the World Series ended the state's DMV said

Empire Stater couldn't help but gloat after the Sox beat the Yankees for the pennant asked for BYENYY

Maine gets more than 50,000 requests for information about vanity plates per month. Maine's Vanity Plate Check is one of more than 20 online services that can be accessed through the Secretary of State's Web page.

Fans craving to identify with their heroes seemed more interested in buying state-issue specialty Red Sox plates that raise money for children's cancer research, said Rob Creedon, spokesman for the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Hiking style dictates benefits

"Our numbers kind of spiked

Massachusetts drivers mostly

after the playoffs," said Creedon.

asked for a variation of the team's

name, such as RZOXO4 and

SAWX04, while one sought to dis-

play the number worn by pitcher

Curt Schilling and asked for

Vermonters were ahead of the

game and had snapped up the ob-

vious slogans long before the Red

Sox ended their long World Se-

ries drought, said Motor Vehicles

"We already had some vanity

plates related to Red Sox, but

they've been out there for quite a

while," said Rutledge.

had none since they won."

Commissioner Bonnie Rutledge.

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - If exercise is too much of an

uphill battle, you may want to try the downside. A novel study of hikers in the Alps made the intriguing discovery that different types of exercise had different effects on fats and sugars in the blood.

Going uphill cleared fats from the blood faster, going downhill reduced blood sugar more, and hik-ing either way lowered bad cholesterol.

Both types of hiking are beneficial, but one may help diabetics more than the other, said Dr. Heinz Drexel of the Academic Teaching Hospital of Feldkirch, Austria, who reported the research at a recent American Heart Association conference in New Or-

His was a most unusual study, involving steep mountains and lifts at a ski resort

"If you think about this in practical terms, it's pretty hard to imagine how any human being could just go one way and get back to where they started unless they happen to live near a cable car, which was used in this study," said Dr. Raymond Gibbons, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., who had no role in the research.

Still, Dr. Gerald Fletcher, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., said the findings could be applied in the real world: People who work in office buildings, for example, could take the stairs one way and the elevator the other, depending on what their exercise goals were.

Hiking uphill is concentric exercise, where muscles are shortened, which happens when you bend your arm or step upward.

Going downhill is eccentric muscle work, such as extending your arm or actively resisting stretching, which happens when you step down

The Austrian researchers tested both forms of exercise on 45 healthy people who normally exercised very little. For the study, the participants took three to five hourlong hikes each week. For two months they hiked uphill and rode the ski lift down. The next two months they took the lift up and hiked down.

Their blood sugar and cholesterol levels were checked before the study started and after each two-month exercise segment. They also were given tests to see how quickly and well their blood removed fats and sugar after each exercise phase

The hikers made no changes in their diets, so that the effects of the exercise could be isolated.

This could be good news for diabetics, who often have trouble with concentric and many types of aerobic exercise, Drexel said.

They may be better able to tolerate downhill hiking, and may get more out of it, too. It also might be a good way for people who do not exercise now to get started. Drexel suggested.



Hikers make their way on one of the Viennese hiking paths in Vienna, Austria, in November 2004. A novel study of hikers in the Alps made the intriguing discovery that different types of exercise had different effects on fats and sugars in the blood. Going uphill cleared fats from the blood faster, going downhill reduced blood sugar more, and hiking either way lowered bad cholesterol.

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Too much MTV?

WA LAKE STEVENS -Someone in the Census Bureau may be watching a little too much MTV.

Bevis Lake, a 5.7-acre body of water in a forested area about 25 miles northeast of Seattle, is now appearing in Bureau records with a different name: Rutthead Lake

Those two names - Bevis and Butt-

head - are almost identical to the 1990s MTV cartoon show "Beavis and Butt-head," which featured a pair of slacker teenagers who watch music videos and make bad

Someone at the Census Bureau must have gotten hored and made a joke out of naming the lake, said Ken Brown, a land surveyor with the state Department of Natural Resources

It's not unusual for small lakes in out-of-the-way places to have different names because of variations in county, state or other official records, but there are no such indications in this case, Brown said.

Shrine can stay

MA PEPPERELL — A judge has ruled that a man can keep the illuminated, three-story shrine in his backyard that he says he was instructed to build by the Virgin Mary.

Officials in this rural town on the

Massachusetts-New Hampshire border ordered Noel Dube, 85, to remove the shrine in 1999, saying he didn't have the proper permits Neighbors had complained about its size and the thousands of visitors it attracted annually

Instead, Dube expanded it, adding a 30-foot painting of Jesus and a 24-foot illuminated cross to an existing 20-foot mural of Our Lady of Fatima.

Last week, Middlesex Superior Court Judge Kenneth Fishman ruled that the shrine can stay.

Southern speaking

RALEIGH — A television documentary debuting this week examines the dialects and language of North Carolina, from the "hoi toide" of Ocracoke Island residents to Cherokee elders who converse in their native language.

In addition to examining the different dialects, the UNC-TV documentary "Voices of North Carolina" also explores what they mean to people's identity. The film is a companion to "Do You Speak American?" a documentary about this country's speech that aired na-tionwide this week on PBS.

Wolf watch in north

D COEUR D'ALENE — Wolf sightings are increasing ernor is expected to ask the federal government for statewide control of the wolf population, Idaho Fish and Game Director Steve Huffaker said.

Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced this week a new rule giving Idaho and Montana more authority to manage wolves inside a federally designated recovery area. But more wolf sightings are being reported north of Interstate 90, outside of the recovery area.

Gov. Dirk Kempthorne is expected to send a letter to Washington, D.C., later this week asking for Palmer Square in Princeton, N.J.



statewide control, Huffaker said.

Mistrial for doctor

OH NORWALK — A judge declared a mistrial in a medical negligence case against a physician after the doctor came to the aid of a juror who passed out during opening statements.

The defendant, Dr. Joseph Carver, told the 74-year-old juror Wednesday that it appeared he had a heart flutter that momentarily prevented oxygen from getting to his brain and caused the black-

The juror was taken to a hospital for tests.

No new trial date has been set. Carver, an obstetrician and gyne cologist, is being sued for \$3 million by a couple who say their new-born daughter was dropped on the floor of a delivery room in 2000 while under Carver's care

Fake cop shoots man

NY FRANKLIN SQUARE — The manager of a Long Island bank was shot dead as he drove home from work by a man posing as a police officer, authorities said.

ties said.

James Gottlieb, 49, was driving on Semton Boulevard in Franklin Square at about 7 p.m. Wednesday when a black SUV with flashing lights pulled him over, Nassau



Hop, skip and a jump Anna Xine skips happily as temperatures rose to the mid 60's in

County police said. When he got out of his car, Gottlieb was confronted by a man who claimed to be a nolice officer and ordered him to get on the ground. said Detective Sgt. Dennis Barry, of the Nassau Coun-

ty Police Homicide Squad. Gottlieb demanded to see the man's identification, and the two began to argue. Gottlieb started walking toward the front door of a nearby house and the man posing as a police officer fired three shots, striking Gottlieb in the arm and leg, police said. He died at Mercy Hospital in

Rockville Centre at 8:14 p.m. The gunman fled the scene and there were no arrests.

Defendant bites bailiff

FORT WORTH — A defendant flew into a rage in a Fort Worth courtroom and bit a bailiff after a judge announced he had been found guilty of indecency with a child Wednesday, witnesses said

Before biting the bailiff, Lonnie B. Howard threw a water pitcher across the courtroom.

"We think he was trying to hit the victim's family," Terry Gr-isham of the Tarrant County Sheriff's Office told KDFW television station in Dallas-Fort Worth.

Howard then lunged at the family, biting the face of one of the bailiffs who tried to restrain him. Officials say he will be charged with aggravated assault on an officer.

Oil spill in tunnel

VA HAMPTON tor-trailer lost its fuel tank while heading westbound through the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel on Monday night, spilling more than 100 gallons of diesel fuel and closing the tunnel to traffic for nearly two hours.

The incident hannened at 7:42 p.m., spokeswoman Tiffany Elliott of the Virginia Department of Transportation said. It did not involve any other vehicles and no one was injured, she said, but specifics about how the fuel tank came

"It seems as though it just dropped off the truck," Elliott said. The amount of fuel in the tank also was not immediately clear. but Elliott said there were indications the tank was full, holding as many as 140 gallons of fuel

Charges in model murder

YEADON — A man was charged Wednesday with raning and killing an asniring teen. age model, then cutting up her body, putting it in a steel drum and burning it with help from an acquaintance. Delaware County District Attor-

nev G. Michael Green said he will consider seeking the death penalty for Lamar Haymes, 29. Haymes was charged with kid-

napping, rape, first-degree mur-der, abuse of a corpse and other counts in the death of 15-year-old Deanna Wright McIntosh, who left home early last month after an argument with her mother.

raped and killed Wright McIntosh at a house in Lansdowne just blocks from her family's Yeadon



Roofer Ken Buchalski wipes sweat from his brow Sky diving while working atop a roof as the Jantzen Girl equin seems to dive out of a deep blue sky in Daytona Beach, Fla.



Arlie Cornbower of New Freedom, Pa., guides his Prize pig "barrow," a male pig, past the judge during the test market hogs contest at the 89th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, Pa.



A portion of Philadelphia's Boathouse Row is shown at night. The Reflections of the past rowhouse lights, a fixture since the 1976 Bicentennial celebrations, and not revamped since the mid-eighties, were later turned off as part of a plan to re-do the lighting with light-emitting diodes instead of standard light bulbs.



Nine-month-old Aubrianna Taylor tries on Big hat to fill the hat of her uncle, Washington State Trooper Charles Bates, of Key Center, Wash., prior to Bates taking part in graduation ceremonies in Olympia, Wash.



A splash of color Japanese Apricot trees are bloor ing in the Sara P. Duke Gardens in Durham, N.C., adding a bright touch to the January monochron ic scene.



Tamarion Botley, 4, casts a fishing line near a foot bridge across Ellen Trout Memorial Lake in Lufkin, Texas.

Men get big money jobs

NC RALEIGH — A study by the state personnel office found that North Carolina employs almost as many women as men in state government, but women fill most low-wage jobs. Women make un 48.9 percent of the state work force but hold 71.5 percent of the jobs in the bottom 10 pay grades. Men hold 75 percent of the jobs in the top 15 pay grades.

Scholarship needs funds

SD PIERRE — Legislators will be asked to find \$500,000 to fully fund a new scholarship program that's more popular than expected. It pays \$5,000 in tuition over four years to qualifying high school graduates for any college or vocational school in the state. The Legislature last year appropriated enough money to fund two years of the program for 650 students, but 826 qualified.

Suspect killed

CAMDEN - A man killed CAMDEN — A men.during an attempted robbery was responsible for a string of rapes in a downtown neighborhood, authorities said Wednesday.

Camden County Prosecutor Vincent P. Sarubbi said the state police DNA lab confirmed Antonio Diaz Reyes, 32, was the rapist in the recent attacks of a high school student, a university student and a store worker

The rapes in November and December were brazen daylight attacks at knifepoint. Investigators decided to check Reyes' DNA because the would-be robber's method was similar to that used in the sexual assaults.

Authorities said Reyes entered the Camden City Wireless and Fishing Supply store Friday afternoon and held the store owner's wife at knifepoint. Owner Ngoc Le, 28, grabbed his own gun and told Reves he would let him live if he released his wife, authorities said. Reyes refused and Le opened fire, fatally hitting Reyes in the head.

Budget request add up

MT HELENA — The Legislature's chief budget analyst warned that while the state ap pears to have plenty of money for the 2005 Legislature to spend, the demands for the cash are quickly eating it away. School funding needs and a state employee pay raise easily could drain what re-mains of an "unprecedented" \$293 million budget surplus, Clayton Schenck said

Funny paperwork

DALLAS — An internal investigation has found that Dallas County Sheriff's Department officials conspired to falsify training records for a civilian reserve deputy so he could patrol county highways unsupervised and make DWI arrests.

Former Sheriff Jim Bowles, days before leaving office last week, reversed conclusions of the investigation and ordered them reclassified as "unfounded," shutting down the case before he left his job.

According to an internal memorandum, the department's internal affairs office had enough evidence to prove that Deputy Arlo Mike Baker, Deputy Thomas "Buck" Fortner and reserve Deputy Cary Platt "conspired to manufacture fraudulent official Sheriff's Department records."

Platt, a real estate developer, denied the allegations Wednesday.

Gargantuan gator

MIAMI - Residents could be forgiven for doing a double-take when an alligator weighing more than 400 pounds was vanked out of a downtown creek so big it had to be hoisted out by a fire truck.

The 12-foot alligator was discov-ered in Wagner Creek, about 16 miles from the Everglades, in the shadow of two major hospital complexes and around the corner from a veterans' medical center, a court house, a county jail and government office buildings.

It was "about the last place you'd expect to see an alligator of any size," said trapper Todd Hardwick. Alligators are much more common in suburban canals and lakes.

The alligator likely swam downtown years ago, when it was smaller, and lived in the canal system draining the Miami Civic Center emerging only to snatch raccoons and opossums from the bank, Hardwick said

Charges dropped

TX SAN ANTONIO — Child in-decency charges have been dropped against Federal Administrative Law Judge Forrest Elmo Stewart. A teenage accuser several months ago admitted that she lied about having sex with Stewart, 78. District Attorney Susan Reed cited poor cooperation between federal officials and investigators in determining what really happened.

Salty wreck

TN ERWIN — With winter's full wrath still to be felt. Unicoi County is already having a cold-weather crisis: It lost all three of its salt trucks during a single traffic accident. "We have snow plows and grad-

ers to do the winter road work, but we'll have to probably seek help from the state in getting road salt spread on county roads,' said Terry Haynes, the county's highway department superintendent.

While traveling Dec. 22 to get more salt, the trucks collided with a tractor-trailer. Icy conditions were blamed for the accident.

The lost trucks were valued at about \$275,000. While they "are fully covered with insurance, it takes time to go through the insur-ance process," Haynes said.

War on homelessness

DULUTH - Mayor Herb MN DULUTH - AMA, Bergson wants to end homelessness in the city within 10 years. In his state of the city address, Bergson said the city will team up with a local food bank to start a fund for Duluth residents who go hungry. "It's going to be very challenging to have the long-term resources that will sustain this," said Greg Owen, who has researched homelessness for the St. Paul-based Wilder Research Center. He said homelessness is a complex issue.

Stories and photos from The Associated

On a fishin' mission

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A 'lighter light infantry'?

All-woman infantry, huh ("Give all-woman infantry a try," letter, Jan. 4)?

What an amazing way to show your thanks to the military that's done everything possible to diversify itself for you, by creating an all-female group of your own. Even better, let's look at this from a common-sense viewpoint.

We already have a double standard with our physical training tests. The last thing we need is an even lighter light infantry to keep things "fair" for our smaller, weaker counterparts

Also, though they may be female, they are still soldiers, too. You'd still have your problem children, normal wear-and-tear injuries and the addition. al responsibilities of pregnancy and such. Infantry training is not for the physically weak or impaired.

Plus, once the volunteers realize the glamor from "G.I. Jane" isn't there, you'd be looking at serious retention problems

Don't get me wrong, if a female can do the job mentally and physically, more power to her. And, of course, the old argument "a woman can stop a bullet just as well as a man" still holds true. But tell me, letter writer, who's going to want to pick up the load from your female 203 or Squad Automatic Weapon gunner when they're too sore to carry it any further when you're outside the wire, not knowing what's around the next corner? In support roles, it's easy. You just have your male counterparts "help" her, or move her to an easier responsibility.

With all due respect, if you want to play infantry, come to Iraq for a bit and pull patrols with other "support" elements that are over here. As you may or may not have heard, they've got all they can handle. Who knows, maybe you can win this for us single-handedly with your "kick butt" approach.

> Spc. Paul Martell Baghdad

Mineo housing just too far away

I think the writer of "Sigonella housing







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Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

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the hest" (letter, Dec. 29) is missing the point; the letter writer, being one of the 'lucky few" who had the freedom to choose where you would live, is, of course, happy to live in Mineo, as it was her choice

Mineo Housing isn't for everyone. The housing units out here are really nice: nowhere has it been stated that they were substandard in any way. It's just the fact that it's 45 minutes from any of the facili-

If you wanted to do normal family activities such as go bowling or to the movies or even go to the Naval Exchange, it's a day trip.

There is no bus service out here, except for the school buses. Yes, we have a firehouse but no paramedic or ambulance, so if you had an emergency, according to the emergency room at the naval hospital, it would take 45 minutes for an ambulance to get to the housing units, then 45 minutes for it to reach the hospital, so a total round trip of 1 hour, 30 minutes, minimum.

I grew up in Europe and have lived in America. Where we chose to live depended on where the schools and hospitals were. This is a major quality-of-life issue that has been overlooked because of the need to fill government housing

The letter writer had her freedom to

choose. I, as well as many other residents of the Mineo Garden Community, did

Sarah DiGioia

Sigonella, Sicily

Take care of veterans, too

The tsunami in South Asia is one of the most devastating disasters in recent memory, and we should show our support as a nation.

However, isn't it interesting how the money can surface in the wink of an eye, how the flag can be flown at half staff quickly, and how we instantly bend to the whining of the United Nations?

This is particularly interesting when the argument against our aging military retirees' promised health benefits is lack of money.

Also, our World War II and Korean War veterans are dving at the rate of more than 1,100 per day and flags are not flying half mast for them. And the United Nations did not step forward with help for our recent catastrophic hurricanes and tornadoes. We cannot even afford the body armor and equipment to ensure maximum safety for our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We are the most powerful and greatest nation in the world, yet we cannot adequately honor those who made this, and who are now making this, possible. Our politicians need to do what is right for our military, both active and retired. If we don't, how can we expect those on active duty today, making many of those same sacrifices we did, to remain on as the career backbone of the U.S. military?

I have stepped forward with monetary help for Sept. 11, disaster relief and for the tsunami relief effort. I just feel strongly that we should honor commitments to our own, as well as to others. Let us put our priorities where they belong - and not use the excuse of a lack of funding for our own, when we can immediately step forward for others, just so we look politically correct. They will all readily accept it and yet shortly be back bashing Americans

> Air Force Capt. Ron Shaw (Ret.) Orem. Utah













OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Canadian cows' range of motion The Tri-City Herald, Kennewick, Wash.

It's almost time to let the cows come home, the Bush administration has decided. Canadian cows. that is.

The decision by the U.S. government to reopen its borders in March to certain categories of Canadian cattle is a good move, backed with an abundance of caution.

The Bush administration is expected to proceed with lifting the ban even after Canada said that it had found a suspected new case of mad cow disease. No part of the 10-year-old dairy cow in question has entered human or animal food.

The ban, which sprang from a May 2003 case of mad cow disease in Alberta, has outlived its time. It may have ended sooner, if it were not for the United States' first case of mad cow disease, discovered in a Holstein from Mabton almost exactly one year ago. The Mabton cow was traced back to a Canadian herd.

The U.S. government has repeatedly petitioned other governments to lift their bans on importing our beef. A reciprocal arrangement with Canada seems only fair. ...

The Agriculture Department says effective measures are in place to prevent and detect bovine spongiform encephalopathy. With safeguards in place, it's time to renew the traditional across-the-border cooperation of U.S. and Canadian cattle producers.

Russians weigh freedom, order Chicago Tribune

Five years ago, the first democratically elected president of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, stunned his countrymen and the world by resigning. Turning to his hand-picked prime minister, Vladimir Putin, Yeltsin gave him the keys to the Kremlin and urged him to "take care of Russia."

Russia, as that new year of 2000 dawned, desperately needed care.... For their part, Russians have willingly

traded in their unruly 1990s-style freedom for a chance at greater domestic security. Putin's approval ratings remain high. Americans can understand that desire for

freedom from terrorism. Though this country has not suffered a repeat of Sept. 11, 2001, Russia has been rocked by apartment bombings, blown-up airplanes, suicide bombers and the horrific hostage-siege in Beslan that resulted in the deaths of hundreds of children...

It is no great surprise that the Russian people are willing to give Putin a stronger hand, Russians submitted to strong, autocratic leaders through hundreds of years of rule by the czars and 70 years of communism. Putin was steeped in the secretive ways of the Soviet KGB and his anti-democratic tendencies were apparent early on. He promised Russians stability and economic growth — both were in short order frey eyears ago.

Fear has trumped hope for Russians. The state is becoming more powerful with the promise that it will make the people more secure. Centuries of Russian history argue that that is a false promise.

that that is a false promise.

Where is Putin taking Russia? Certainly not to the re-creation of the Soviet empire.

But the chances that Russia will develop into a free, prosperous and modern democracy seem to be slipping away.

Insurgents won't rock Iraq vote The Poughkeepsie (N.Y.) Journal

President Bush is holding firm that Iraqi elections must take place at the end of this month. It's the best position to take, for now. For all the likely problems with distributing and counting ballots in such a chaotic cli-



mate, delaying elections could exacerbate fears the United States isn't committed to removing its troops as soon as possible. Many moving its troops as soon as possible. Many community, still have great distrust about U.S. intentions in Iraq, More importantly, the Bush administration realizes the sooner elections are held, the faster it will be able to withdraw troops and let the Iraqis run their own country.

Free and safe elections are, of course, the key to success in Iraq. The insurgents are mustering all they can to derail the effort, but the interim Iraqi government must try to move forward. ...

For their part, U.S. authorities are ramping up efforts to make sure military vehicles operating in Iraq have the proper armor to protect troops against attacks. And the military also will boost U.S. troop strength in the short term, adding about 12,000 to 138,000 already serving in Iraq. Those efforts are essential. The United

Those efforts are essential. The United States also has to make a long-term investment by providing better training for Iraqi security forces.

It's still anyone's guess whether the January elections can be carried out. ... But it's clear delaying the vote would be a huge victory for the insurgents. ... That is reason enough to stick with the timetable for now.

U.N. 'stingy' in appreciation The Gazette, Colorado Springs, Colo.

Maybe "stingy" means something different in Norwegian than it does in English. That might explain how comments made by Jan Egeland, the Norwegian who serves as emergency relief coordinator for the United Nations, suggesting that the United States and other countries were being less-than-generous in responding to the stunami disaster in Asia, could have been "misinterpreted."

Egeland conducted the Dec. 27 press conference at the United Nations in English, however. "It is beyond me why are we so stingy, really," he said. "If the foreign assistance of many countries now is 0.1 or 0.2 perthink that is very generous." That provoked a strong response from Secretary of State Colin Powell — "The United States is not sting," he said — and led to some "clarifications" from Egeland the next day, claiming

The United States contributes roughly 0.13 percent of its Gross Domestic Product each year to development aid — that excludes food aid (of which we are by far the world's biggest provider), funds for rebuild-

ing Iraq and Afghanistan and private donations. That's less than the 0.7 percent of GDP the United Nations suggests we countitute but, given that the U.S. economy is the world's largest, it's still a generous expenditure — and can't be called "stingy" in any language.

Voyeur law: Seeing is believing The Times-Picayune, New Orleans

A federal law that now makes it illegal to surreptitiously film or photograph another person should help thwart the abuse of advances in technology that have made taking pictures effortless.

Small video cameras can be installed virtu-

ally anywhere, and many mobile phones now come equipped with cameras. They've become the tools of the perverted who have sneaked them into gym locker rooms and public restrooms.

The law that was signed by President

The law that was signed by President Bush applies only to vojecuristic acts committed on federal property. Proponents of the legislation cited examples of inconspicuous cameras being used to capture images of people in dressing rooms and showers on Navy warships.

That's despicable. But until this new legis-

lation was passed, there was no law that made such actions illegal. That gap between what we know to be wrong and what we've deemed illegal was similar to a loophole Louisiana had until recently. Susan Wilson, a Monroe woman, discov-

ered in 1998 that a neighbor had been secretly recording her and her family's private moments.

When she went to authorities, however, she discovered that even though in-person

voyeurism was illegal, videotaped voyeurism had not been addressed. Wilson's complaints led to the passage of a video voyeurism bill in Louisiana that made

Wilson's complaints led to the passage of a video voyeurism bill in Louisiana that made the action a felony. Since then, more than 30 other states also have taken a stance against video voveurism.

An assault on fair punishment The Plain Dealer, Cleveland

Todd Bertuzzi has gotten a break he does not deserve from a provincial court in British Columbia. Bertuzzi is the Vancouver Canucks hockey star who, in the closing seconds of a lopsided loss in March, viciously attacked Steve Moore of the Colorado Avalanche from behind...

Three days before Christmas, Bertuzzi accepted a very nice present from prosecutors: By pleading guilty to assault causing bodily harm and agreeing to pay a \$500 fine and perform 80 hours of community service, he can walk away with no criminal reord after a year. A hearing to ratify the deal was arranged so hastily that Moore could not travel from his home in Massachusetts to face his assailant in court.

face his assailant in court.

Had he appeared, Moore might have talked about what the attack meant to him. Almost 10 months later, he still suffers from headaches, memory loss and mood swings. He cannot skate or work out...

At its best, professional hockey is a game of speed and grace. But one reason that so few Americans follow it — and even fewer seem upset by this year's shutdown — is the NHL's refusal to take an unbending stand against the eye-for-an-eye violence represented by Bertuzz's assay.

Oust Annan for his inaction The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, Pa.

It's time for America to sever ties. We aren't prepared to call U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan a crook. He may simply be an incompetent. But either way, Annan has no right to be given an additional two years in his prestigious position....
There was the U.N.'s oil-for-food scandal

in Iraq. As Nile Gardiner of The Heritage Foundation noted in a recent column, it was "the biggest scandal in the history of the United Nations and the biggest financial fraud of modern times." He wrote that the U.N. program was supposed to help the people of Iraq, but instead enriched their corrupt leaders.

Charles Duelfer, a U.S. weapons inspec-

Charles Duelfer, a U.S. weapons inspector, wrote that Aman's hand-picked director of the program supposedly received a vower present of the program supposedly received a vower less of oil. Some humanitarian program that was! Then there was the scandal in the Congo involving U.N. personnel and peacekeepers, Gardiner wrote that the U.N. is acuced of human rights violations against refceived for the program of the program of the rab scandal." Annua even accepted organizational responsibility for that debade: ...

As the leading financial sponsor of U.N. operations, the United States should demand the immediate removal of Annan. If President Bush does not have the fortitude to do it, Congress should, by cutting off all U.S. payments to the U.N. ...

In recent years, the U.N. has become a forum for strong expressions of anti-American sentiment. It is time that the United States stopped paying for its own revile-

Tax time coming — watch for those forms

Start preparing papers now, experts say

trying to pull

their papers

together at the

last minute

can make

mistakes or

miss valuable

deductions.

pavers may need

BY EILEEN ALT POWELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK - Among the credit card bills, post-holiday sales flyers and junk mail this month will be a number of letters that consumers will want to save. These contain the W-2s, 1099s and 1098s, and other forms Americans need for their annual April taxpaying ritual

Eric Tyson, a financial counselor and co-author of "Taxes for Dummies." suggests consumers set up a file folder or large

envelope to collect the in-coming tax documents so they're ready when the time comes to fill out income tax forms that are due April 15. "When it's all in one

place, it's easier to do your taxes," Tyson said.

Taxpayers trying to pull their papers together at the last minute can make mis takes or miss valuable de ductions, he said.

In fact, a study by the Government Accountability Office found that more than 2 million Americans overpaid their federal

taxes by an average of \$438 because they claimed the standard deduction rather than writing off items such as mortgage in terest payments, state and local taxes, and charitable contributions.

Tyson also suggests consumers "take at least a glance" at the incoming tax documents to make sure they're correct.
"You don't want to wait until April 14, be-

cause you won't be able to get errors corrected in time to get your return filed on he said

The form that's the most important at tax time for workers is the W-2, which employ-ers provide. W-2s contain information on workers' total earnings, as well as the amount of federal, state and local taxes that have been withheld.

Most employers distribute W-2s at their workplaces, but some mail them to workers as well as to former employees. Other forms likely to show up in mailbox

es in coming weeks are 1099-INT forms, on which financial institutions report the amount of interest paid to consumers, and 1099-DIV forms, where dividend earnings

are recorded.
Financial institutions send copies of many of these tax forms directly to the Internal Revenue Service, said Lonnie Gary, a committee chairman with the National Association of Enrolled Agents, based in Washington, D.C. Enrolled agents are li-censed by the government to assist consumers with their taxes.

The government uses these third parties to verify many sources of income," Gary said. That should help motivate accurate reporting by consumers, he added.

Gary, who works as a tax manager with American Express Tax and Business Services in Mountain View, Calif., said workers who haven't received their W-2 forms by the first week in February should call their employers and ask when they will be available. **Taxpayers**

"They go astray more often than you'd think," he said

"People move, change addresses, but the W-2 goes out to the previous ad-

dress."

If a company has gone out of business, workers generally can use their final pay stubs to prepare their taxes, he said. Peggy Munro, an en-

olled agent in Montpelier. Vt., who also wrote sections for the "Taxes for Dum-mies" book, pointed out that there are a variety of 1099 forms that tax-

In addition to those with information about taxable interest and dividend payments, there are 1099s used to report sales of real estate and stocks, pension and Individual Retirement Account distributions, and Social Security. Other 1099 forms are used to report unemployment compensa-tion or state and local tax refunds.

While most of the forms that arrive in the mail have to do with income, there are some that will be of help to consumers who itemize their taxes and claim deductions.

The most common form in this category is the 1098, which financial institutions issue to report the interest that consumers on their home mortgages, she said Some 1098s also show real estate taxes paid from the homeowner's escrow account There's also a 1098-E, an interest statement for those paying back student loans.

"People should also expect to receive statements for charitable donations," Munro said. "For donations of \$250 or more, the charity is required to give you a receipt. Many [charities] don't mail them out until January of the following year." She added: "If you've made those contri-

butions and haven't received receipts, get on the phone and ask for them. A canceled check is no longer proof for the deduction."



Some lower-income workers not receiving credit The Dallas Morning News

The concept is almost beyond comprehension: The Internal Revenue Service actually wants to give people money

The IRS wants more eligible taxpayers to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, which is designed to ease the tax burden on the working poor. "It's not often that you hear the

IRS is recruiting people to claim a credit," said David Williams, di-rector of the EITC program at the IRS The most recent IRS figures

show that 27 percent to 32 percent of all EITC claims had errors

"We want everybody who qual-

credit, but we don't want to pay out the dollars on this to those who don't qualify," said IRS Com-missioner Mark W. Everson. "It helps lift people out of poverty, but it can't be subject to the high error rate that it is and not be subject to criticism.

It comes down to educating taxpayers. If you're single with income below \$12,000, or married with children and income below \$36,000, it's worth checking into. That doesn't mean you qualify.

There are pitfalls to watch out for. All you have to do to claim the credit is fill out a federal tax return along with the worksheet that tells you how much your credit will be. That sounds simple, but unfortunately it's pretty complicated.

Nationally, 21 million low-income families qualified for the credit last year and received \$36 billion. But IRS studies indicate that millions more are eligible but fail to claim the credit.

David Williams, director of the program at the Internal Revenue Service, said slightly more than 75 percent of eligible taxpavers claim the credit.

More than 90 percent of eligible mothers with children claim the credit, he said. But you don't have

to have a child to claim the credit. The maximum credit is \$4,300 for a family with two or more chilceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a refund. "The EITC lifts millions of fam-

ilies above the poverty line every year," Williams said. "It be comes a supplement to their earned income

Even if you don't owe taxes, be sure to file an income tax return. That's the only way you can claim the credit.

But make sure you qualify, because the IRS monitors the program closely for errors and fraud. The amount of the credit depends on your earned income, the number of children you have and your filing status.

To start, you must have earned

income from wages or self-employment.
"Review your circumstances

over the past year," Williams said. "Don't guess whether you qualify."

The most common error is in-correctly claiming a "qualifying child," he said. You must have lived with your child for more than half the year.

"The rules for claiming a qualifying child are somewhat compli-cated." Williams said. "It's not a surprise that a number of people get them wrong."

For information on claiming the credit, go to the IRS Web site at www.irs.gov and download Publication 596, Earned Income Credit. You also may order a free copy by calling toll-free 1-800-829-3676.

YOUR MONEY

2nd airline lowers fares

American Airlines, the nation's largest carrier, is matching most of the sweeping changes Delta

Air Lines made to its fare structure, which includes eliminating Saturday-night stay require-ments and lowering last-minute fares, an industry source familiar with the move said Thursday. After mimicking Delta's chang-

es in some markets Wednesday evening, AMR Corp., American's parent company, was expected to file additional rate changes Thursday morning with the Airline Tariff Publishing Company system, according to the source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The source would not say whether American planned to cap fares across the board. 'There are some differences,'

the source said. On Wednesday, Delta Air Lines Inc. cut its most expensive fares by as much as 50 percent and eliminated other restrictions in an effort to woo business travelers and other last-minute ticket

Delta said no fare would be higher than \$499 one-way in coach class or \$599 one-way in first class under its new program.

9,708.40 Dow Jones Industrials 2,743.46 Dow Jones Transportation 259.08 Dow Jones Utilities

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE) MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)

+.01 -.03 -.32 +.09 +.20

64.01 45.45 50.31 54.02 56.62 99.81 36.00 37.98 56.96 34.21 69.01 54.77 53.05 36.41 46.02 61.00 22.92 70.02 ... 16 1.00 15 ... 18 .07 21 1.44 17 88 24 5948 26 83 21 1.00 20 .92 19 .80 41 .66 21

+.05 -.17 +.09 +.01 +.36 -.22 -.27 -.71 -.13 -.27 +.26 -.11 -.56 +.37 +.12

-3.3 -2.8 -4.2 -4.4 -3.2 -7.8 -3.4 -5.8 -1.4 -6.2 -7.1 -2.4 -6.9

SemiHTr iShRs2000 DJIA Diam iShJapan OilSvHT SP Engy

6,211.33 1,150.74 NYSE Composite Amex Index Nasdao Composite

1,217.90 1,750.82 Washad Composit 1,217.90 1,060.72 S&P.500 666.99 548.29 S&P.MidCap 656.11 515.90 Russell 2000 12,024.36 10,268.52 DJ Wilshire 5000

NYSE

Vol (00) Last Chg Name

26.30 3.34 15.25 4.52 19.92 36.00 20.84 16.69

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS

DIV PE

169571

7,273.18

One analyst estimated that the don't max out your cards. fare changes, if mimicked by all other U.S. carriers, could reduce the industry's annual revenue by \$2 billion to \$3 billion a year.

FRIDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

AMEX

3,636.78

7,057.51

31.48 121.86 105.90 10.54 81.67 34.97 47.00 2.85 6.46

Credit-limit cuts could hurt score

Money Talk

Q: Until a few years ago, my late husband and I traveled a good deal and maintained a high limit on our credit cards. He has now sed away. I travel far less and no longer have a need for so much credit. I would like to have my limits reduced, but fear doing so would have a negative effect on my credit rating. Is this correct?

A: Lowering your credit limits may indeed hurt your credit score, the number lenders use to help gauge your creditworthiness. The scoring formula measures the gap between the credit you have and the amount you actually use. The

wider that gap, the better. But there is no way to determine in advance if the lowered credit limit will affect your score, according to Fair Isaac Corp., creator of the FICO credit score.

But the damage of lowering lim-its on a card or two may not be that severe if you don't use the cards that much and already have a high credit score - which is likely if you have a long credit history, are never late on your payments and

If you have reason to think your credit score may be on thin ice, on the other hand, it may be best to live with the higher limits as long as you are confident you can resist

% YTD 52-wi Chg % Chg % Chc

-2.12 -4.31 -5.89 +5.73

NASDAQ

7.10 22.80 26.67 18.72 4.62 13.33 2.28 23.79 69.25 +.34 -.06 -.13 +.00 +.11

Chg.

-.06 -.05 -.01 -.14 -.01

-.16

-3.7 -2.8 -2.0 -1.6 -1.0 -4.2 -3.2 -3.2 -2.3 -2.3

-1.8 -2.0 -2.2 -2.7 -2.3

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)

Vol (00) Last Chg Name Vol (00) Last Chg

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS

41.96 19.03 16.04 32.59 22.10

26.33 42.93 17.09 14.93 12.93

-.17 Nasd10 +.28 SiriusS -1.37 Intel -.14 Microso -1.36 Cisco -1.36 SunMic -.28 Oracle -.38 Aastron -.03 Symant -.09 AppleC

Fidelity Invest: Grotox x
Amer Century Inv: Ultra
Fidelity Invest: GroCo x
Amer Century Inv: Ultra
Fidelity Spartan: Egidx
Putnam Funds A: GrinA p
Fidelity Invest: A Mgr
Frank/Temp Frink A: SMCDGFA
AIM Investments A: Corns p
Fidelity Invest: USSI
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Fidelity Invest: Ovrsea Fidelity Advisor T: GrOopT

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Putnam Funds A: GibEqty p AIM Investments A: Weingh AIM Investments A: ChartA ; Merrill Lynch I: BalCapl Scudder Funds S: Intl FdS Fidelity Advisor T: OvrseaT Lord Abbett A: DevGIA p Scudder Funds S: Income S

Merrill Lynch I: USGvtMtg Scudder Funds S: Devel

+8.14

Dear Liz: I'm an insurance pro fessional responding to the read-er who despaired because her husband's parents refused to do

any estate planning for their business which her husband runs. If the parents have any kind of a competent life insurance agent, the agent has probably been talking to them about these problems for a while.

It's possible the parents have already completed the estate planning but chose not to tell their son and daugh-ter-in-law. This is very common, especially if they don't like the daugh-ter-in-law or if there is marital

discord. The parents also may care whether the business continues or may plan to sell the business when they retire and let the son fend for himself. A: If the parents are secretly planning to sell the business - ei

ther when they retire or at their deaths - they're contemplating the one course of action that may be even more unfair than having no plan at all.

Assuming the sale wouldn't

generate enough cash for the son to retire, he would face the daunting task of starting his work life over again at middle age. If he's devoted all of his energies to run-

ning the business, he may not have the contacts or the skills to make an easy transition. If the parents were

honest about their plans, he might have time to adequately prepare. Those preparations could, of course, involve leaving the family business which is the outcome

such secretive parents may be trying to avoid. All this only under-Liz Pulliam Weston scores how right the daughter-in-law is to worry when no clear plans have been an-

nounced.

Here's another perspective: Dear Liz: As a certified public accountant, I have seen so many miserable scenarios of unnecessary expense and chaos that result from people's reluctance to plan for their deaths. Business owners can sometimes put off talking to the lawyer, but they usually have to talk to the accountant, since taxes need to be filed. The son could enlist the accountant to help put the facts to the elderly parents. The accountant will be able to show a grim picture of what could be in store for the heirs and possibly the surviv-ing spouse of the current owner. The son needs to act, since this situation can only get worse.

A: That's an excellent suggestion. Many times a trusted third party can jump-start estate-planning discussions that have been stalled by family tensions, control issues, denial or procrastination.

Here's one more thought: Dear Liz: You recently had a query about how to deal with estate planning when a small-business owner is not ready to consider succession. In our area, two universities have programs that can help with such issues, along with other topics specific to family-owned businesses Other universities around the country have similar resources. In addition the son could hire a consultant who specializes in family businesses so that estate and succession planning are handled to benefit the owners, as well as the successors.

A: Indeed, there are more than 100 such centers in the United States alone and dozens of others worldwide, according to the Family Firm Institute, a nonprofit membership association of family business programs, educators and advisors. Visit www.ffi.org.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number that Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd. #238, Studio City, CA 91604, or via her Web site, www.liz weston.com. She regrets that she cannot respond personally to

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 10)	\$1,3569
British pound (Jan. 10)	\$1.93
Japanese ven (Jan. 10)	102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 8)	1.031.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.377
British pound	\$1,8688
Canada (Dollar)	1 2323
Denmark (Krone)	5.6248
Fount (Pound)	6.0702
Egypt (Pound)	05/0.7663
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7915
Hungary (Forint)	188.75
Iceland (Krona)	63.585
Israel (Shekel)	4.3937
Japan (Yen)	104.88
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2919
Norway (Krone)	6.2188
Philippines (Peso)	56.17
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.649
South Korea (Won)	1.049.00
Thailand (Baht)	39.25
Turkey (New Lira)	1.4045
(Military exchange rates a	re those
available to customers at milit	ary bank-
ing facilities in the country of	issuance
for Janan, South Korea, Gern	nany, the

and issuance at the country of issuance where the country of the c

PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

Discount rate
Federal funds market rate
3-month bill
30-year bond4
Sources: The Associated Press, Bank

ents and Sensibility Money tip of the day

Reassess spending habits

NEW YORK - After the spend, spend, spend" mentality of the holidays, it's time to reassess where your money goes.

If you didn't make a budget for the holiday season, you may be discovering, as the bills mount higher, that you've overspent. As Jason R. Rich writes in the new book "Make Your Paycheck Last," you can be thrifty without being cheap.

Just ask yourself these questions before every purchase:

- What priority would I give this expense: absolutely necessary, important, not critical or frivolous
- What benefits will I receive from this purchase?
- Do I have the money to afford this?
- Can I save any money by

making this purchase with a coupon, at a sale price or other dis-

- Is there a similar product or
- service that will cost less? ■ Am I sure that I'm getting
- the best value? ■ Are there any additional costs for making this purchase. such as interest that will be accrued on a credit card or fees
- from my bank? ■ Given these additional

costs, is my purchase still worth Rich recommends that you

make a table of expenses to save on for next year while the holidays are still fresh in your mind. Calculate how much you spent on gifts, gift wrappings, ship-ping costs, food, decorations, party clothes, holiday activities, travel, entertainment and other







Sunday Horoscope

party, or perhaps the word "gathering" is more fitting, as this is no out-of-control event. It's a dignified, formal affair. Venus and Mercury enter fashionably late, inspiring us to take a more serious approach to relationships. Notice love's role in your life. How do you love, and how do you

know you are loved? TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (January 9). You build on your fantastic attributes this year and kick some of your less fantastic habits in the process. A lucky deal comes through for you at the end of this month Romantically, you'll be more aware of what you're giving and therefore ready to accept better, too. Commitments are nailed in April. Retreat in August.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). The stars activate your envy button. Someone rich makes life seem easy from your point of view - as if all you have to do is make enough money and everything else will follow. Look deeper for truth and meaning

Love signs are Aries and Gemini.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). They say domestication is the enemy of romance, but you can prove them wrong. You've got a way of arranging your environment to bring about amorous feelings What style. What class.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21).

Someone stunning captures your heart - for the moment, that is, You could lose all your senses and pull an "Oops! ... I did it again" a la the Britney Spears song. Make sure your "captor" knows you're not really serious.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

Your mental picture lights up - it's your chance to be downright scholarly. Fascinating information drifts onto your path. Soak it up like a child with an open mind who doesn't know his or her limitations

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You're in no mood to deny your feelings. While you're looking longingly in someone's direction, someone else is looking longingly toward you. These games of triangular love

could go on for days

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Noble pursuits are necessary to sustain life. And so are frivolous pursuits. Engage equally in acts of big importance and graceful insignificance - although you may find it difficult to distinguish

Holiday Mathis between the two.



23). It's the perfect time to take a risk in love - it has to be a real risk though, the kind that makes your palms sweat. If you know your gesture is going to be well re ceived, it doesn't count. The very essence of romance is uncertainty

SCORPIO (Oct.

24-Nov. 21). You're aligning with your sensuality. You find beauty in natural occurrences and music in the soft wind and gentle rain. Re store your balance by taking time alone to appreciate the elements in vour own way

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). Your social acumen goes deeper than just being a witty participant in the right place with the right neonle. When friends come to you in a broken-down state, you offer love in the form of a listening. non-judgmental ear.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Relationships are an intricate puzzle, and you'll fit new pieces together today. It feels like you've been asking the same question since the dawn of time. Well. you're finally heard, and you'll get your

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Romantic risk is favored. You are just imagining the pain you anticipate will happen if you put your heart on the line. But if you think it's going to burt it probably will. The trick is to hold still just when you feel like running.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

There's a chance to show great mercy. Such an opportunity doesn't come along every day, so seize the moment. You can make a difference to the person who needs your help the most

Creators Syndicate

'Nightmares' aren't from horses

Why do we call bad or scary dreams "nightmares"

Because of the similarity in form between the second element of the compound "nightmare" and the noun "mare," meaning "a female horse," many people have assumed a connection between the two words

Actually, however, the "-mare" of "nightmare" is a survival of another "mare" found in Old En-

"Mare" was a word in English as early as the 8th century, but it was obsolete by the 18th century. Old English "mare" means "an evil spirit thought to oppress people during sleep." The compound "nightmare" first appears in Middle English in the 13th century, in a sense much the same as "mare" in Old English

Not until the 16th century was the meaning of "nightmare" extended to refer to a frightening or oppressive dream, probably from the belief or suggestion that such dreams were caused by evil spir-

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 281, 47 Federal St.,

Make certain neighbor gets point that she's far too nosy

Dear Abby: How does one deal with a nosy neighbor? "Miss Nosy" looks through my mail, and I caught her red-handed with a former neighbor's mail which she had opened, read and apparently hoarded. I didn't confront her Dear Abby because I had just moved next door and didn't want to start a

Miss Nosy claims she goes into my mailbox to make sure our postman hasn't accidentally put something for her in there. Doesn't she know that if he did, I'd give it to her? If someone comes to my door. Miss

Nosy calls and demands to know who it is and as much about his or her life history as I'm willing to share. She also asks me questions that are far too personal. She is elderly, but I don't think that's a valid excuse for her behavior.

I'm considering replacing my mailhoy with one that locks so that only I can get my mail out. - Invaded in Tennessee

Dear Invaded: What your neighbor is doing is called mail tampering, and it's a felony. A locked mailbox is the surest, safest solution to your problem. You would be doing your neighhors a tremendous favor if you

called the local postal inspector's office and reported what the an is doing. They may not haul Miss Nosy off to the pokey, but she'll be sent a letter saving that what she's doing is a felony, and if a check should go missing,

she'll be blamed for it. P.S. Suggest to the woman that since she doesn't seem to have enough to occupy her. she should start a Neigh borhood Watch proomm

Dear Abby: How do you get a child to stop biting? My sister's little boy, "Alan," is 1½. My son, "Lee," is 2. Every time they are together, Alan bites Lee out of anger

Sometimes the bite remains for days - and once it stayed a whole week. Lee does not bite his cousin

back. Since we are a close family, the children are together almost every day. My sister is ashamed of her son's bullying. Do you have any

solutions? - Frustrated in Louisiana Dear Frustrated: For the next month or so, you and your sister should make a point of watching the children closely. When Alan becomes aggressive and starts to hite, his mother should make eve

contact with him and say, "Stop

it! We don't do that! If you're going to bite, you can't play with Then the child should be separated from his cousin for a 15- to 30-minute time-out. Once Alan understands there are consequences for his actions, the biting should stop.

Dear Abby: My husband, "Brad," and I have a beautiful daughter. "Annie." who was born after a difficult labor and an emergency C-section in April

We're now expecting our sec ond child, who is due next April just a few days after Annie's birthday. (This birth will also be Caesarean) Brad thinks it would be great to have the baby on Annie's birthday, but I'm not so sure. Do you think it's best for each child to have their own birthday, or would it form spe-cial bond between siblings to share a birthday? - Undecided Mama in Ohio

Dear Undecided Mama: I'm pleased to oblige. Children are individuals, and each child should have one day to be the sole center of attention. Although it might be more convenient to celebrate both birthdays together. I recommend against it. Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet Letter and the Abby on the Internet Mearabby Universal Press Syndicate

Daughter must deal with dad, his dislike for her boyfriend

Dear Annie: I am a good kid. I'm 19 years old and a freshman in college, planning to be a veterinarian someday. I make good grades, I don't do drugs, don't drink and don't party. I am not

having sex, and I go to church every Sunday. My father, however, complains about my

choice of boyfriend "Kyle," whom I have been dating off and on for five years, is not perfect, but he treats me like a queen, isn't abusive and doesn't pressure me about sex. Right now, Kyle has no job and doesn't have the money to go to college, but he's working hard to develop the skills needed for a good career, maybe in the military.

Kyle and I had sex before re-devoting ourselves to our religion. My father holds this against us and, consequently, dislikes Kyle immensely. Dad insists that I date other people and gets angry when Kyle and I go out.

Dad also thinks Kyle is not good enough for me because he cannot support me. Since we aren't planning to get married anytime soon. I'm not worried

about finances, not to mention my salary as a veterinarian ought to help a lot.

Here's the problem: Kyle's parents have invited me to join them for a vacation at a cabin they are renting. I have agreed to go, and my father is furious. I am old enough to

make my own choices Annie's Mailbox but still young enough to be subjected to punishment, and my vengeful father will probably take away my car. Am I supposed to be

an obedient daughter and follow his rules or stop being a child and make decisions for myself? I need your help.

- Trying Hard Dear Trying: You sound like a sensible responsible voung

However, by our count, you have been dating Kyle since you were 14. We can understand why your father thinks you should broaden your dating experience. Still, you are indeed old enough to make your own decisions and that means you must be willing to accept the consequences, including the loss of car privileges.

Dear Annie: My daughter is in third grade. The teacher permits the children to use the bathroom only at lunch or recess, but not during class time. Sometimes the kids eat or drink during the day and cannot wait that long. When my daughter comes home from school, she runs to the toilet. One little girl wet herself in class

The students are awarded 'table points" if they do extra things in the classroom, and they can use these points to go to the bathroom, if need be. But if they are desperate and must go anyway, their group is penalized.

I think this is cruel, but I don't want my daughter to be singled out if I complain to the principal. Am I making too much of this?

Pee Patrol in Pasadena, Calif. Dear Pasadena: Children

should never be penalized for needing to use the bathroom. If you don't want your daughter singled out, organize a group of concerned parents to approach the principal and insist this outrageous policy be changed immediately.

Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd. Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Earhart's stepson plans to search anew

Company plans to launch expedition for vanished aviator this spring

BY LIZ DOUP South Florida Sun-Sentine

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. The world loves a mystery, and Amelia Earhart's is a classic

Nearly 68 years ago, America's fearless female flier took off from a Miami airstrip and vanished in the Pacific on a flight around the world

Now, a Maine-based ocean exploratory company plans to launch an expedition this spring looking for Earhart's plane

can understand if Earhart's stepson, George Putnam Jr., feels as if he has flown this course before. Searchers have sporadically looked for Earhart's Lockheed Electra since it disappeared July 2, 1937, near Howland Island, a spit of land in the Pacific Ocean, about halfway between Australia and Hawaii

Over the years, more than 100 books, movies and documentaries have mined the unfinished story of her remarkable life and her mysterious death. She offered pride and hope to a country crippled by the Great Depression. In the '20s and '30s, when many women didn't even drive a car, Earhart set records in the sky.

Putnam - 16 when his stepmother disappeared - would like to see Earhart's story completed And at 83, he'd like to see that happen soon

At his Boynton Beach, Fla., home, the genial Putnam, with a thatch of gray hair and an easy smile, recalls a swirl of unproven stories that surround Earhart's disannearance.

She was part of an espionage mission, spying on the Japanese. She ran off with Fred Noonan her navigator. She landed on a nearby island and died there. Or this: She returned to the United States and lived out her life in New Jersey under another name



George Putnam, 83, of Boynton Beach, Fla., is Amelia Earhart's stepson. A new expedition is searching for Earhart's lost plane. At Putnam's desk is a reprint of the July 5, 1937, Chicago Herald and Examiner with headlines about the search for Earhart

Putnam has his own take on what happened to the woman who took him flying. And his isn't so dramatic or intriguing.

Says Putnam, matter of factly, "The plane ran out of gas. Longtime friend Elgen Long,

who'll be part of the search expedishares Putnam's belief. "It wasn't a mystery," says Long, 77, a veteran pilot and co-au-

thor of "Amelia Earhart: The Mystery Solved." "It was an aircraft accident. A tragic accident. Earhart and Noonan had 22 000

miles behind them when they took off from Papua New Guinea and were headed to Howland Island to refuel

Only 7,000 miles remained in her goal: to be the first woman to fly around the world. At the time, she was three weeks shy of her 40th birthday

Using records that detailed air speed and weather conditions. Long charted her course across the Pacific. She ran into one fatal problem: headwinds stronger than she expected.

"She thought she had four extra hours of gas," Long says. "The headwinds changed that."

Among her last radio messages: . gas running low. Been unable [to] reach you by radio

In 2002, Long joined an underwater search for Earhart's plane led by Nauticos, the same company behind the current venture. Mechanical failure ended that search after about six weeks

Now they plan to continue their search using sophisticated sonar equipment to sweep 1,000 square

Queen Victoria's gunmaker opens first stateside store

Long knows they won't find remains, but they could find such things as belt buckles or iewelry. If they do find anything, Put-nam hopes it will make its way

into a museum for all to see. He understands that the amazing Amelia belonged to the world. "Here was a woman who was

an object lesson to others" he

says. "She was a role model to women. What she did took courage and stamina."

Putnam's father, part of the Put-nam publishing family, was Ear-hart's promoter before they were married.

His mother was also a maverick who traveled the globe and liked adventure. Initially, at least, Earhart and his mother, Dorothy, were friends. Earhart dedicated her 1928 book "20 Hrs. 40 Min."

Putnam, only 10 when his parents' marriage broke up, doesn't remember any marital turmoil. And he liked Earhart, "who was al-ways nice to me."

"I don't know that it was love the way we think of it," says Putnam, describing their marriage. "But I think it was a happy, contented arrangement.'

Putnam remembers his father's efforts to find his wife, long after the official search ended. In his desperate search, he offered cash rewards for information and was victimized by hoaxes. She taught Putnam's older

brother, David, to fly, and Putnam

remembers flying with her "The noise — it's nothing like flying today," he says. "The bang-ing and crashing sounds. There's no insulation. It was pretty darned primitive flying. It took a lot of stamina on her part."
"If they can find the plane, it

would wipe out all the oddball sto-ries," Putnam says. "Finally, it

no trace of the plane was found. Today's intricate equipment helped pippoint the Titanic, Long says - gives searchers a better would all be put to rest."

miles of the ocean's floor north-

west of Howland Island. Estimat-

Despite the years, Long expects

Long believes the plane is in

"It's like putting something in

At the time Earhart and Noonan

water nearly four miles below the

ocean's surface, so deep the tem-

the deep freeze," he says. "No sun-

disappeared, the U.S. government

launched a search that covered

250,000 square miles of ocean, but

en better than the tools that

perature is near freezing.

light. No rust, no corrosion

the plane to be in good shape, if

ed cost: \$1.5 million.

BY GAIL SCHONTZLER Bozeman Daily Chronicle

BOZEMAN, Mont. - English gunmaker Westley Richards made pistols and rifles

that the British Army fired at Napoleon at Waterloo. Since then, the firm, founded in 1812, has made fine hunting guns and rifles for Queen Victoria, the maharajahs of India and the

famed safari hunters of Africa. So it's no wonder that people around Bozeman weren't quite sure what to make of it when the U.S. agent for the venerable gunmaker opened its only store in America here.
"By the time Lewis and Clark published

journals, Westley Richards had pub-d four catalogs," said Jim Kilday, a lished four catalogs, partner in Westley Richards Agency USA The Westley Richards store itself has

walls adorned with trophies of gazelle, greater kudu and long-necked gerenuk. It sells Courteney boots and shoes made in Zimbabwe from the hides of cape buffalo, ostrich and hippopotamus

And its four safes hold firearms worth more than \$1 million.

Kilday, 62, and his son, Kevin, 33, the agency's general manager, talked recently about why they have brought the romance of fine English firearms to the wilds of Mon-

It was a childhood dream come true, Jim Kilday said, when the opportunity are year ago to go into business with the Clode family, which has operated Westley Richards in England for nearly 50 years.

They considered making their headquarters in Ireland or Italy or a major American city, Kilday said. "We picked Bozeman, bese Bozeman is paradise - one of the great undiscovered places.'

Ninety percent of their business of buying and selling firearms is done over the Internet. And their clients, many of them sports-men from places like Texas and California, already like to travel to Bozeman to fish and

The Bozeman agency imports firearms from England and trades hundreds of used guns, which can sell for as much as \$85,000, for a 15 percent consignment fee. Most clients plan to actually shoot their guns, not just hold them as investments, Kevin Kilday

Westley Richards is the oldest of the big three English makers of fine guns, James ey & Sons having been for and Holland & Holland in 1835.

Today the English company builds just 50



A .500 Nitro Express drop-lock rifle, displayed Dec. 24 at the Westley Richards store in Bozeman, Mont., shows some of the intricate engravings that are placed onto many of the Westley Richards rifles and shotguns. Richards made pistols and rifles that helped the British Army defeat Napoleon at Waterloo.

new firearms a year. Each "bespoke gun" is made to order for

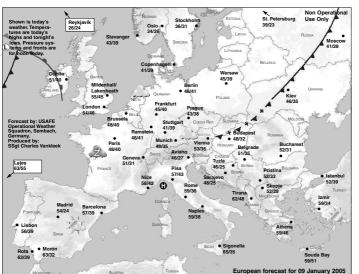
an individual customer, who may wait two years or more to receive his prize

A new shotgun sells for \$80,000, a new double rifle for \$90,000. The engraving

alone may cost \$30,000 to \$40,000 when inlaid with three colors of gold.

Today the parts are cut by machine, but

they are still finely fitted by hand, much as they were in 1812. A thousand hours of work may go into each double rifle.



EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Cloudy with rainshowers lighs in the upper 40s. Monday lows the upper 30s.

Britain, Ireland: Cloudy with rain-showers and isolated thunderstorms. Highs in the lower to mid-50s.

Monday lows in the lower to mid-40s Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-40s. Monday lows in the mid-20s.

France: Cloudy with isolated rain-showers and thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 40s to upper 50s. Monday lows in the lower 40s.

Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy and windy with periods of rainshow-ers. Highs in the mid-40s. Monday lows in the lower 40s.

Southern Germany: Cloudy with rain-showers. Highs in the 40s. Monday lows in the mid to upper 30s.

Hungary: Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 40s, Monday lows in the lower

Northern Italy: Mostly cloudy. Highs in the mid-40s to upper 50s. Monday lows in the upper 20s to lower 40s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-50s to mid 60s. Monday lows in the mid to upper 30s.

Kosovo: Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 50s. Monday lows in the lower 30s

Norway: Cloudy with rain and snow mix. Highs in the mid-30 to lower 40s. Monday lows in the mid-20 to upper 30s

Portugal, Spain: Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid-50s to lower 60s. Monday lows in the mid-20 to upper 30s.

Turkey: Sunny. Highs in the upper 50s to lower 60s. Monday lows in the mid-30s to lower 40s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

SUN & MOON 6

Full moon 25 Jan 05

EC 64 40/19 47/29 w Dolhi 48/34 62/44 55/33 HI 46 72 31 62 72 84 36 66 LO 73 39 24 45 76 13 31 61 35 ait City 58/27 43 51 12 50 62 72 27 55 42 86 72 30 74 89 30 50 74 Cairo 66/47 86/61 Karac 81/54 THE UNITED STATES TODAY TODAY'S STATESIDE OUTLOOK

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MIDEAST

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42/23



Scheduled to ETS or PCS Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & Radio

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.-College basketball: Ari-cona at Stanford (did). AFN-Atlantic, 1 p.m.-College basketball: femple at Duke (did). AFN-Sports, 1 p.m.-NBA: Denver at San An-onio (did).

AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and Radio, 7 p.m.-NFL: AFC Wildcard Playoffs, Denver at

AFN-Sports, 7 p.m.-Bowling: PBA Geico Open.

AFN-Sports, 8:30 p.m. Motorcycle racing: THO Supercross, Anaheim (did).

AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and Radio, 10:30 p.m. NFL: NFC Wildcard Playoffs, Minnesota at Green Bay.

Monday

AFN-Sports, 1 am. Golf: Mercedes Championship, final round.
AFN-Matmit. 2 am. College basketball: De-Paul women at Marquette.
AFN-Sports, 9 am. College basketball: AFN-Sports, 9 am. College basketball: AFN-Sports, 12:30 pm. NFL: AFC Wildcard Playoffs, Deriver at Indianapolis (did).
AFN-Sports, 6:30 pm. NFL: NFC Wildcard Playoffs, Mensota at Green Bay (did).

All times Central European Time; dld indi-cates delayed broadcast. All listings are sub-ject to change. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 8 at San Diego
Sunday, Jan. 9
Denver at Indianapolis
Minnesota at C

sota at Green Bay Divisional Playoffs Saturday, Jan. 15 San Diego, N.Y. Jets or Denver at Pitts-

Green Bay, Seattle or St. Louis at Atlanta Sunday, Jan. 16 Seattle, St. Louis or Minnesota at Philadelphia Indianapolis, N.Y. Jets or San Diego at New England

College basketball

Men's AP Top 25 schedule

No. 1 Illinois at Purdue
No. 3 North Carolina vs. No. 22 Maryland
No. 4 Wake Forest at Clemson
No. 5 Duke vs. Temple
No. 6 Syracuse vs. Seton Hall
No. 7 Oklahoma State at Texas Tech
No. 9 Georgia Tech vs. Virginia No. 10 Connecticut at Georgetow No. 11 Gonzaga at St. Mary's, Cal

No. 12 Washington at UCLA No. 13 Arizona at Stanford NO. 13 Arzona da stanforu No. 14 lowa at Ohio State No. 16 Pittsburgh at Rutgers No. 17 Louisville vs. Texas Christian No. 18 Mississippi State at Mississippi No. 19 Alabama vs. LSU No. 20 Michigan State vs. Northwester No. 21 West Virginia vs. St. John's No. 25 Cincinnal at Salnt Louis

No. 23 Cincinnati at Saint Louis No. 24 George Washington at Duquesne No. 25 Boston College vs. Providence Sunday's games No. 2 Kansas at No. 8 Kentucky No. 15 Texas vs. Baylor

Friday's men's scores

Carnegie-Mellon 66, NYU 63
DeSales 64, Averett 53
DeSales 64, Averett 53
DeSales 64, Averett 53
Emira 59, Harthick 55
Fairleigh Dickinson 79, St. Francis, Pa. 52
John Jay 61, Hunter 51
Marist 77, Siena 66
Oswego 51, 76, St. I avere Oswego St. 76, St. Lawrence 67 Penn St.-Behrend 58, Penn St.-Altoona 46

Penn St.-Behrend 58, Penn St.-Altoo Pitt.-Greensburg 74, La Roche 71 St. John Fisher 77, Nazareth, N.Y. 54 St. Vincent 86, Roberts Wesleyan 72 Staten Island 73, Medgar Evers 57 Utica 68, Ithaca 56 Vs. Correcognical by 70

Utica 68, thiaca 56
Va. Commonwealth 70, Towson 58
SOUTH
Florida Memorial 84, Ind. South Bend 80
Gardner-Webb 69, Campbell 66
Palm Beach Atlantic 70, Olivet Nazarene 67
Troy 56, Stetson 53
MIDWEST
Bendijl St. 76, Concordia, St.P. 65

DePauw 75, Oglethorpe 53 Dickinson St. 87, Valley City St. 56 Dubuque 67, Faith Baptist Bible 57 Evansville 92, N. Iowa 73 Dubuque GF, Faith Baptist Bible 57
Evansyllie ZR, Navo 21 Pete 57
Mary BI, Black Hills St. 68
Mary BI, Black Hills St. 68
Minot St. 90, Mayvilli St. 63, Navo 21
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Adams St. 72
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Adams St. 73
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Adams St. 73
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Marinot St. 74
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Marinot St. 74
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Marinot St. 74
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, Navo 21
Nebrasia-Nearney K3, N

Montana-Western 89, Montana St.-North-n 80, OT

rn 80, OT
Pepperdine 83, San Diego 67
Utah Valley St. 75, Longwood 57
TOURNAMENT
Sig Makofski-Union Invitational
First Round

Wesleyan, Conn. 63, Connecticut (EXHIBITION Northern St., S.D. 77, Wayne St. 69 cut Coll 59

Women's AP Top 25 fared

Friday LSU (13-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 Georgia, Saturday.

2. Duke (14-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 25

2. Fuke (i.e.) Vid. noc t July. Next: vs. No. 25 Virgina Teh. Sundly, 3. Baylor (11-1) did not play, Next: vs. No. 7 4. Motre Dame (12-1) did not play. Next: at 4. Motre Dame (12-1) did not play. Next: at 5. North Carolina (12-1) did not play. Next: at No. 21 Maryland, Sundly, vs. No. 18 lows, Surridy, 7. Texas (8-3) did not play. Next: at No. 3 Baylor, Saturdiya.

saturday. nford (12-2) beat Arizona State 68-57.

Next: at Arizona, Sunday. 9. Ohio State (13-2) did not play. Next: vs. erty, Sunday. I. Tennessee (9-3) did not play. Next: at 15 Connecticut, Saturday.

10. Tennessee (9-3) did not play. Next: at. 0.15 Connecticut, Saturday. 11. Mirmesota (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. 11. Mirmesota (12-2) did not play. Next: vs. 12. Treast Tech (10-2) did not play. Next: at bidahoma State, Saturday. 13. Boston College (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Villanova, Wednesday, Jan. 12. 14. Rutgers (9-2) did not play. Next: at St. Omre. Saturday. 13. Connecticut (8-3) did not play. Next: vs. 15. Connecticu

5. Connecticut (8-3) αια ποι μιαχ. Νέλι. νο. . 10 Tennessee, Saturday. .6. Vanderbilt (11-2) did not play. Next: vs.

South Carolina, Sunday. 17. Georgia (12-3) did not play. Next: at No. 15U, Saturday. 18. Iowa (13-1) did not play. Next: at No. 6 Michigan State, Sunday. 19. DePaul (11-2) did not play. Next: at Mar-quette, Sunday.

Sunday. nsas State (9-3) did not play. Next: at 20 K

20. Karsas State (9-3) did not play, Next: at Karsas, Saturdy, 20. did not play, Next: vs. 21. Maryland (10-2) did not play, Next: vs. 22. U.C.L. (10-3) beat Washington State 89-69. Next: at Washington, Sunday, 22. New Mexico (10-1) did not play, Next: vs. Michigan, Sunday, did not play, Next: vs. Michigan, Sunday, 25. Virginia Tech (11-2) did not play, Next: at No. 2 Dide, Sunday.

Friday's women's scores

Allegheny 62, Earlham 39 Brandels 60, Rochester 45 Charlotte 74, Saint Louis i Coast Guard 67, Smith 49 Fairfield 74, Siena 69

George Washington 90, Grove City 72, Juniata 5: Hartwick 75, Elmira 68 ington 90 Vale 50 Hunter 54, John Jay 31 Ithaca 58, Utica 53

Averett 54, Peace 43
Bryan 83, Bluefield 58
East Carollina 60, Memphis 47
Houston 55, Tulane 54
Richmond 65, Dayton 57
South Florida 67, Louisville 59
TCU 81, Southern Miss. 43
UAB 63, Cincinnati 45
Buena Vista 71, Mount Mart vi

UAB 30, Cincinnal 45 Separa Visit Separa Vis Nebraska-Kearney 83, Adams St. 73 Presentation 58, Northland 56

Valley City St. 77, Dickinson St. 69 FAR WEST Arizona 80, California 69
Colorado Mines 51, Colo-Colo. Springs 40
Great Falls 92, Montana Tech 76
Montana St.-Northern 88, Montana-West-m 87

rn 87 N.M. Highlands 79, Colorado Christian 67 San Diego St. 63, E. Washington 59 San Diego St. 63, E. Washington Southern Cal 62, Washington 52 Stanford 68, Arizona St. 57 UCLA 89, Washington St. 69 Whitworth 58, Linfield 53

ucu. e g., Washington St. 69
Whitworth Ss. Infried 53
TOURNAMENTS
BURNAMENTS

Lady Monarch Classic First Round Kings, Pa. 60, Misericordia 34 Salisbury 74, Susquehanna 69 Rinso Marquette Tournam First Round Alvernia 77, DeSalaes 64 Lebanon Valley 65, Keystone 56

Lebanon Valley 65, Keystone 56 Starters Moravian Winter Clas First Round Moravian 95, Rosemont 38 EXHIBITION Northern St., S.D. 76, Wayne St. 67

Golf

Mercedes Championships

At Plantation Course at Kapalua Kapalua, Hawaii Purse: \$5.3 million Yardage: 7,263; Par: 73 Second Round

Vijay Singh Mike Weir 66-65-131 70-63-133 -15 -13 n Kave Sergio Garcia Chad Campbell Tiger Woods 69-67-136 -10 68-68-136 -10 Tiger Woods Stewart Cink Stuart Appleby Retief Goosen David Toms Vaughn Taylor Joey Sindelar John Daly Heath Slocum Craig Parry Adam Scott 68-68-136 74-64-138 71-67-138 71-67-138 69-69-138 Woody Austin Bart Bryant 69-72-141 69-72-141 Jonathan Byrd Zach Johnson 72-70-142 72-70-142 76-68-144 72-72-144 73-71-144 74-71-145 73-72-145 n Ames 72-73-145 74-74-148

Tennis

ASB Classic

ASE Urassile

Saturday

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Bank Termin Sendoribu, Salverbia, det. Marion

Bank Termin Sendoribu, Salverbia, det. Shinobu

Asagoe (A), Japan, 57, 75, 64, 64,

WTA Gold Coast

Saturday At Royal Pines Resort Gold Coast, Australia Purse: \$170,000 (Tier III) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Singles Championship Patty Schnyder (2), Switzerland, def. Sa-antha Stosur, Australia, 1-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Next Generation Hardcourts

Saturday At Memorial Drive Adelaide, Australia Purse: \$419,000 (Intl. Series) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Surface: Hard-Outdoor Singles Semifinals Joachim Johansson (2), Sweden, def. Olivi-er Rochus, Belgium, 6-1, 7-6 (5). Taylor Dent (5), United States, def. Juan Ig-nacio Chela (4), Argentina, 6-1, 6-1.

Hopman Cup

At Burswood Dome
Perth, Australia
Purse: \$780,000 (Exhibition)
Surface: Hard-Indoor
Slovakia 3, Argentina 0

Slovakia 3, Argentina 0 Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, def. Gisela Dulko, Argentina, 1-6, 6-4, 6-4. Dominik Hrbaty, Slovakia, def. Guillermo Coria, Argentina, 6-4, 6-1. Hantuchova and Hrbaty def. Dulko and Coria, wallover.

Chennai Open

Saturday At SDAT Tennis S Chennai, India Purse: \$380,000 (Intl. Series) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Surface: Hard-Outdo Singles Semifinals Paradorn Srichaphan (2), Th Tomas Zib, Czech Republic, 7-6 i Carlos Moya (1), Spain, def. & cia-Lopez, Spain, 6-4, 2-6, 7-6 (2) , Thailand, def. 7-6 (5), 6-3.

Singres Quarterfinals Carlos Moya (1), Spain, def. Paul-Henri Mathleu, France, 6-4, 6-4. Paradom Srichaphan (2), Thailand, def. Kristof Vilegen, Belgium, 6-3, 6-4.

Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, def. Michal Tabara, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-4. Tomas Zib, Czech Republic, def. Justin Gimelstob, United States, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Qatar Open

Saturday At The Khalifa Tennis Centre Doha, Qatar Purse: \$1 million (Intl. Series) Surface: Hard-Outdoor

Single
Roger Federer (1). Switzerland, def. Ivan
Ljubicic (6), Croatla, 6-3, 6-1,
Friday
Femifinals
Ivan Ljubicic (6), Croatla, def. Albert Costa,
Spain, 6-3, 7-6 (4),
Spain, 6-4, 7-6 (4),
Switzerland, def. Nikolay Davydenko (8), Russia, 6-3, 6-4.

College hockey

Friday's scores

Amherst 5, Trinity, Conn. 3 Boston U. 3, Northeastern 1 Bowdoin 4, Babson 1 Brockport 3, Johnson & Wales, R.I. 1 Buffalo St. 5, Lebanon Valley 2 Buffalo St. 5, Lebanon V. Clarkson 3, Princeton 2 Colby 6, Mass.-Boston 1 Colgate 3, Harvard 1 Connecticut 1, Army 0 Cornell 4, Brown 2 Dartmouth 9, RPI 1 Dartmouth 9, RPI 1 Hamilton 3, Wesleyan, Conn. 1 Holy Cross 3, American Internationa Mass.-Lowell 4, Massachusetts 3 Middlebury 2, Connecticut Coll. 1 New England Coll. 9, Castleton St. 1 New Hampshire 2, Providence 1 Norwich 8, S. Maine 3 St. Anselm 6, Skidmore 1 St. Lawrence 6, Yale 4 Salem St. 4, St. Michael's 4, tie Vermont 4, Union, N.Y. 0 Wentworth Tech 4, Geneseo St. 3 Williams 3, Tufts 1

Williams 3, Turts 1
SOUTH
Alabama-Huntsville 3, Wayne (Mich.) 2
MIDWEST MIDWEST

Alaska-Anchorage 1, Minn-Duluth 1, tie
Bemidji St. 4, Air Force 2
Bethel, Minn, 5, Finlandia 1
Bowling Green 6, Alaska-Fairbanks 2
Michigan 6, W. Michigan 4
Michigan 5t. 4, Miami (Ohio) 0
Nebraska-Omaha 3, N. Michigan 1
North Dakota 3, Minn-Mankato 2 Notre Dame 1, Lake Superior St. 1, tie Ohio St. 3, Ferris St. 1 St. Norbert 3, Lake Forest 0

St. Norbert 3, Lake Forest 0
Wisconsin 6, St. Cloud St. 0
Wis-Stevens Point 3, Wis.-Superior 3, tie
FAR WEST
Michigan Tech 3, Denver 0
EXHIBITION

Maine 8, US Under-18 Te Skiing

Men's World Cup downhill

CHAMONIX, France— Results from a men's World Cup downhill Saturday on the Piste Verte course: 1. Johann Grugger, Austria, 1 minute, 56.93

econds.

2. Kristlan Ghedina, Italy, 1:57,04.

3. Michael Walchhofer, Austria, 1:57.07.

4. Mario Scheiber, Austria, 1:57.24.

5. Daron Rahives, United States, 1:57.35.

6. Christoph Gruber, Austria, 1:57.42.

8. Bode Miller, United States, 1:57.44.

(tied) Hermann Maier, Austria, 1:57.44. 10. Kurt Sulzenbacher, Italy, 1:57.64. 11. Ambrosi Hoffmann, Switzerland, 11. 1:57.72. 1:57.72.

12. Juerg Gruenenfelder, Switzerland, 1:57.73.
(tied) Yannick Bertrand, France, 1:57.73.

(tied) Yannick Bertrand, France. 157.7.1 14. Manuel Osborne, Canada, 157.84. 15. Bruno Kernen, Switzerland, 157.84. 17. Finlay Mickel, Britain, 1550.5. 17. Finlay Mickel, Britain, 1550.5. 18. Werner Franz, Austria, 158.19. 20. Peter Fill, Italy, 158.31. 21. Klaus Kroell, Austria, 158.44. 22. Pierre-Emmanuel Dalcin, Franz, 158.44.

23. Patrik Jaerbyn, Sweden, 1:58.67. 24. Patrick Staudacher, Italy, 1:58.7 Patrick Staudacher, Italy, 1:58.74.
 Marco Buechel, Liechtenstein, 1:58
 Didier Defago, Switzerland, 1:58.90.
 Picolas Burtin, France, 1:59.08.
 Micolas Burtin, France, 1:59.08.
 Max Rauffer, Germany, 1:59.15.
 Claude Cretier, France, 1:59.29.

Women's World Cup GS

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — Re-sults Saturday from a World Cup glant sla-lom on the Deborah Compagnoni course (run times in parentheses): 1. Tina Maze, Slovenia, 2 minutes, 36.78 seconds.

seconds
(1.17.89-1.18.89)
2. Genevieve Simard, Canada, 2:37.94
(1.19.07-1.18.92)
3. Allison Forsyth, Canada, 2:38.00
(1.19.57-1.18.82)
4. Julia Mancuso, United States, 2:38.23
(1.19.07-1.19.25)
5. Sonja Nef, Switzerland, 2:38.24 (1:18.92-1:19.32). Sinternating. 2:38.24 6. Tanja Poutlainen, Finland, 2:38.41 (1:18.44-1:19.97). (tie) Anja Paerson, Sweden, 2:38.41 (1:18.56-1:19.85). 8. Nicole Gius, Italy, 2:38.54 (1:19.25-1:19.29). Sonja N (1:18.92-1:19.32)

(tie) Michaela Dorfmeister, Austria, 2:38.54 (1:19.08-1:19.46). 10. Kathrin Zettel, Austria, 2:38.58 (1:19.25-1:19.33).

Deals

Friday's transactions

BASEBALL American League CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Designated C Jamie CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Designated c) anne whire for assignment of the rem with 18 person of the control of the con

With LIP Guain Fetter of Professional Base-hall Leagues
NAPEL—Named John Gook executive direc-tor of business operations.
Canadian-American League
NORTH SHORE SPIRIT—Signed LHP Andy

Northern League
JOLIET JACKHAMMERS—Announced the contract of OF-1B Josh Loggins has been purchased by the Cleveland Indians.
KANSAS CITY T-BONES—Signed RHP Greg

RASKETRALI

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZERS—Placed is self Abdur-Rahim and F Darius Miles on jured list. Activated C Ha Seung Jine injured list. the injured list.

SACRAMENTO KINGS—Placed G Bobby
Jackson in the injured list. Claimed G Eddle
House off waivers from Milmauke
Continental Basketball Association
YAKIMA SUN KINGS—Signed F Noel Felix
and F Donnell Knight.

and F Donnell Knight.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

DENVER BRONCOS – Signed RB Kris Briggs,
WR Todd Devoe, DE Randy Garner, OG Reese
Hicks, TE Mike Pinkard and LB Markus
Steele.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS—Placed CB Ty Law on injured reserve.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Named Bill Musnrave guarterbacks coach.

Arena Football League
ARIZONA RATTLERS—Waived DS Kendall Edwards.

CHICAGO RUSH—Signed QB Charlie Peterson and OL-DL Jim Sodano. Announced the retirement of OL-DL Riley Kleinhesselink.

GEORGIA FORCE—Traded OL-DL Nikia Adderson to Arizona for future considerations.

LOS ANGELES AVENGERS—Signed OS Ben Bronson. NASHVILLE KATS—Signed DS Reggie

Stephens.

ORLANDO PREDATORS—Signed OS Travis

MCGriff, DB Jason Bostic, WR Kerry Watkins,

OL-DL Devonte Peterson, OL-DL Leon Scott,

DS Jamie Hadley, OL-DL Deon White and QB

Romaro Miller, Traded OS Fablain Davis to

Resident Consideration of the Considerati

Canadian Football League
OTTAWA RENEGADES—Signed Joe Paopao,
coach, to a one-year contract extension and
announced he will also be the general man-

HOCKEY

American Hockey League
SPRINGFIELD FALCONS—Recalled LW Dennis Packard from Johnstown of the ECHL.
Central Hockey League
AUSTIN ICE BATS—Signed D Jeff Alcombrack and C Tom Kotsopoulos.
COLORADO EAGLES—Walved G Glan Baldri-

corpus christi rayz—Signed RW Roger OKLAHOMA CITY BLAZERS—Signed G

OKLAHOMA CITY BLAZENS—signed G Kasey Moreland—signed D Cameron Breit-kreuz and RW Chris Pelletler. LACROSSE National Lacrosse League MINNESOTA SWARM—Traded F Derek Malawsky and a 2005 second-round entry draft pick to San Jose for F Kelly Hall and a 2007 first-round entry draft Dick to San Jose for F Kelly Hall and a 2007 first-nound entry draft pick.

800HESTE INMEHIAAWS—Tradel D
Christopher Communication of the cond-round entry draft pick or a 2006 second-round entry draft pick for a 2006 secOLYMPICS
U.S. OLYMPIC COMMITTEE—Announced
the resignation of Early Reese, chief financial officer.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer
D.C. UNITED—Re-signed D Brandon Pride

COLLEGE

COLLEGE
BRIGHAM YOUNG—Named Brandon
Doman quarterbacks coach.
COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON—Named Lauren
Sampson director of sports marketing.
DUKE—Named Bill O'Brien offensive coordi-

DIME - Named Bill O'Brien of fersive coordinate of the Management of the Core will forego his senior season and make himself under the Core will senior season and make himself will be the Core will be compared to the Co

Kobe boosts L.A., tsunami aid effort 🛭

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES - Kobe Bryant was so money, and not just for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bryant had 27 points and 10 assists in a 111-104 victory over the Houston Rockets on Friday night when every point he scored meant money for children who survived the tsunami in Southeast Asia

Asked if he had a point total in mind before the game, Bryant said, "A hundred. There's a greater cost at stake

Along with Bryant, Houston teammates Tracy McGrady and Bobby Sura donated \$1,000 per point to UNICEF, as did other players Friday night McGrady led the Rockets with 26

"It's just a little donation to try to help out so they could get their lives back together," said Sura, who added 20 points. "It felt good.'

In all, the three players contrib-\$73,000. Bryant and uted McGrady shared a hug at the buzzer

"It's for a great benefit," McGrady said. "I tried not to think about it during the game, but every time I made a shot, I was like, 'There's two thousand dollars, there's three thousand dollars.

The Lakers needed some charity of their own after losing two straight games at San Antonio and Dallas.

"It was a big game," Bryant said. "Their team is trying to fight to get into the playoffs as we are and they're right on our heels We're fighting every game. It's an uphill battle for us, but we seem to rise to the challenge."

Four other Lakers scored in double figures, including Lamar Odom with 20 points and 12 rebounds and Caron Butler with 21

Houston's Yao Ming scored 25 points before fouling out with 18 remaining

Lakers coach Rudy Tomjanovich improved to 2-0 this season against his former team. The Lakers beat the Rockets 84-79 on Nov. 13 in Houston, when an emotional Tomianovich was honored for his 34 years.

This time, Tomjanovich said, it "a very big win. I called it a playoff game.'

The Rockets cut their 24-point deficit to nine points at the start of the fourth quarter. But the Lakers responded with a 6-0 spurt and then Brian Cook hit consecutive three-pointers on assists by Bryant for a 95-77 lead with 9:30 remaining

Helped by McGrady and Yao, the Rockets got within eight points with 51/2 minutes left on McGrady's fast-break layup. Yao had four straight points before McGrady scored four in a row

"That's a very heavy pack on your back," Yao said about the 24-point hole. "People can say, 'Let's start over in the second half like it's zero-zero.' But you can't



stop thinking about that pack on your back. We played with much better energy in the second half, but we paid for what we did in the first half

Kings 100, Hawks 97: At Atlanta, Mike Bibby scored 31 points, including a clinching iumper with 11.7 seconds remaining, and Sacramento handed At-

lanta its sixth straight loss The Hawks (5-26) have lost 11 of 12. Only New Orleans has a

worse record.

Chris Webber bounced back from a 6-for-21 shooting performance in a loss to Toronto. He made his first six shots and finished 13-for-22 from the field for 28 noints

Pistons 110. Celtics 104: At Boston, Richard Hamilton scored 25 points recovering from a dubious record-setting night by making two key baskets down the stretch

Chauncey Billuns scored 22 for the defending NBA champions. who lost to Memphis 101-79 on Thursday night as Hamilton went 0-for-10 from the field and 14-for-14 from the line to become the first player in NBA history to lead his team in scoring without making a single basket.

Nets 82, Warriors 72: Vince Carter scored 22 points, Richard Jefferson added 20 and host New Jersey bounced back from two bad road losses to beat Golden

Jason Kidd added 13 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists as the ets sent the Warriors to their fourth straight loss.

Magic 111, Bobcats 91: Hedo Turkoglu scored 22 points, fellow reserve Pat Garrity added 16 in a victory over visiting Charlotte. Grant Hill scored 16 points and

Tony Battie added 13 on 6-for-6 shooting for the Magic, who on Nov. 6 became the first team to lose to the Bobcats. Steve Francis had 10 points and tied his season high with 13 assists.

Bucks 107, Raptors 105 (OT): At Toronto, Desmond Mason had 23 points and Michael Redd scored 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter.

Jalen Rose sent the game overtime with a driving layup at the buzzer, but Mason had five points in the extra period and Toronto's Morris Peterson missed a potential tying jumper with one second 1eft

Timberwolves 89, 76ers 84: Sam Cassell scored host Minneso ta's first 14 points in the fourth

quarter and finished with 26 as the Timberwolves ended a four-game losing streak with a victory over Philadelphia, which played without guard Allen Iverson.

Iverson, the NBA's leading scorer, sat out the game with a sprained right ankle sustained Wednesday at Utah. He was also



Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant dunks over Houston Rockets Tracy McGrady during the first half Friday night in Los Angeles Bryant and McGrady each pledged \$1,000 for every point they scored to tsunami relief.

bothered by the flu and a bruised left shoulder, but Sixers coach Jim O'Brien said it was the swollen ankle that kept Iverson out.

Bulls 84. Jazz 78: At Chicago Rookie Luol Deng had 22 points and seven rebounds, and Eddy Curry added 21 points as the Bulls handed Utah its eighth consecutive loss.

Matt Harpring and Gordan Giricek both had 13 points for Utah, which hasn't won since beating the Philadelphia 76ers 103-101 on Dec. 20.

Kirk Hinrich scored 12 points and Ben Gordon and Andres Nocioni each had 11 for Chicago which has won eight of its last 11 games

Heat 103, Trail Blazers 92: Miami began its longest road trip of the season by getting double-doubles from Shaquille O'Neal and Dwyane Wade to defeat the injury-depleted Trail Blazers

O'Neal had 28 points and 10 rebounds and Wade had 25 points and 12 assists for the Heat, who led by as many as 22 in winning for the 16th time in 17 games Their only loss came Monday against the SuperSonics, and they can avenge it Sunday night at Seattle on the second stop of a five-game trip.

Miami has won eight straight road games.

Carter's admission dismays Raptors

The Associated Press TORONTO - Vince Carter's

former teammates were dismayed Friday after hearing him admit he didn't always try his hardest when he played for the

Toronto Raptors. In an interview broadcast Thursday on TNT, network analyst John Thompson asked Carter

if he pushed himself as NBA briefs

himself as hard as he should have in Toronto. "In years past, no," said

Carter, acquired by the New Jer-sev Nets on Dec 17. "I was fortunate to have the talent ... you get spoiled when you're able to do a lot of things. You see that you don't have to work at it.

"Now, with the all the injuries. I have to work harder. I'm a little hungrier. Getting a fresh start has made me want to attack the basket.

Many have questioned Carter's dedication, his commitment to offseason conditioning and his desire to improve, but some where were surprised to hear Carter acknowledge it.

"It's a reflection on him and his character," Raptors guard Rafer Alston said. "Is he a guy that you can go to war with night in and night out? That's what a lot of people are going to be questioning. Alston also suggested that Cart-

er cost the Raptors games with his lack of effort "It hurts." Alston said. "I don't know if a player who is considered an All-Star and has so many

fan votes going into All-Star week wants to have that on his rap sheet

Carter has played well since being traded for Alonzo Mourning, Aaron Williams, Eric Williams and two first-round draft picks. He is averaging 22.5 points in 40.3 minutes with New Jersey, compared to 15.9 points in 30.4 minutes with the Raptors.

Toronto guard Morris Peterson was shocked when he watched the interview on television

'It caught me off guard, being ional player that's something I always pride myself on," Peterson said. "I can sleep better at night knowing I give it every thing I can You could tell he wasn't play-

ing his best," Peterson said. Toronto coach Sam Mitchell didn't want to talk about Carter 'That's between Vince and his conscience," Mitchell said.

Union, league pledge \$500,000 each to relief effort

NEW YORK - The NBA players' union has decided to donate \$500,000 to help victims of last month's Indian Ocean tsunami, and the NBA will match the gift, a

league spokesman said Friday. The donations are to be made UNICEF, NBA spokesman Brian Flinn said.

Several NBA players decided to donate \$1,000 for every point they scored or assist they recorded in games played earlier this week, and many teams are donating money and collecting funds

Police try to ID more fans

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. - Police are trying to identify more fans who were caught on camera throwing food or drinks or walking onto the court during the brawl at November's Detmit Pistons-Indiana Pacers game.

Auburn Hills police released photographs of at least seven different people they are trying to identify. Lt. James Manning said Friday that the department plans to charge them with violating a local ordinance that prohibits spectators at sporting events from walking on the playing surface or throwing things.

Oakland County Prosecutor Gorcyca David previously charged 10 people, including five Pacers, in the brawl with misdemeanor assault and battery. One fan, Bryant Jackson, also is charged with felonious assault. Two other fans have been charged under the city's ordi-

Abdur-Rahim, Miles join injured list

nance

PORTLAND, Ore. - The Portland Trail Blazers placed for-wards Shareef Abdur-Rahim and Darius Miles on the injured list Friday and activated rookie center Ha Seung-Jin.

Abdur-Rahim, who has missed seven games because of loose particles in his right elbow, will have surgery Wednesday that could sideline him for five weeks.

Miles injured his left knee in the Blazers' loss on Wednesday to the Los Angeles Clippers. He is expected to be sidelined for up to

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Grizzlies hold off Hornets, stretch win streak to six

The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. - A night after soundly defeating the de fending NBA champs on the road. the Memphis Grizzlies extended winning streak to a season-high six games with a victory over the league's worst team.

Pau Gasol scored 20 points and Shane Battier added 19 to help the Grizzlies defeat the New Orleans Hornets 84-76 Friday night.

Memphis outscored New Orleans 8-1 in the final 2:23 to improve to 18-17, the first time the Grizzlies have been above .500 this season. Friday's win followed Thursday's 101-79 victory over the Detroit Pistons.

The Hornets dropped to an NBA-worst 2-29 with their 10th straight loss.

"We knew it was going to be an ugly game," said Memphis center Lorenzen Wright, who grabbed 10 rebounds. "They're hungry, 10 rebounds. "They're hungry, and they want to get a win bad ...We felt this was a game we

were going to win. The demeanor of the team never changed. We just knew we had to play defense and stop them.

Gasol added 11 rebounds, and Rattier matched his season-high with 10 rebounds. He also had a career-high five blocks.

The two teams went scoreless for more than four minutes in the fourth quarter. The Grizzlies shot 22 percent, only slightly better than the Hornets' 20 percent.

New Orleans also had six turnovers in the fourth.

The Hornets, despite not making a field goal in the final seven minutes, closed within a point twice in the fourth quarter, the final time at 76-75 on Rodney Rog-ers' two free throws with 2:23 left. From there, Memphis put together six straight points as part of its closing stretch.

"I don't know what it is, but we're not playing smart," Rogers

Mike Miller finished with 16 points for Memphis.

Baron Davis led the Hornets with 19 points and eight assists, The Hornets shot a season-low 31.7 percent — quite an accom-plishment for a team that began the night with the league's worst field goal percentage, 39.7 percent

"It's not like we're not getting the looks," Davis said.

"We're getting the looks, We're just not making our shots. Once again, I thought we settled for threes.

Lee Nailon added 14 points, and Rogers and P.J. Brown fin-ished with 10 points. Brown also had 12 rebounds.

Memphis coach Mike Fratello acknowledged the wounded Hornets presented "the worst game you can have" after Thursday's win at Detroit.

"We were fortunate," Fratello id. "I commend New Orleans for their effort. They've had a difficult season, but they didn't give up and played hard."



New Orleans Hornets' I.R. Smith drives on Memphis Grizzlies' Shane Battier (31) during the first half Friday in Memphis. Tenn.

NBA scoreboard

Washington Orlando Charlotte Atlanta

Seattle innesota

Phoenix Sacramento L.A. Lakers L.A. Clippers Golden State

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division Pct GB .500 — .469 1 .455 1½

16 17

15 18 .455 12 20 .375 12 22 .353

Division 27 8 .771 18 13 .581 17 14 .548 8 22 .267 5 26 .161 7 8 16½ 20

on 12 .613 14 .563 14 .533 18 .400 19 .367

Pcf 7 .794 10 .677 17 .514 17 .485 29 .065 9½ 10½ 23½

Western Conference

Southwest Division W L

S 2 29 .065 Northwest Division 23 8 .742 17 14 .548 14 17 .452 14 17 .452 11 23 .324

Joiden State 2
Friday's games
Milwaukee 107, Toronto 105, OT
Orlando 111, Charlotte 91
Detroit 110, Boston 104
Sacramento 100, Atlanta 97
New Jersey 82, Golden State 77
New Jersey 82, Golden State 78
Minnesota 88, Philadelphia 84
Miamil 103, Portland 92
LA. Lakers 111, Houston 104
Saturday's games

Saturday's games
New York at Cleveland
Denver at San Antonio
New Jersey at Orlando
Minnesota at Washington
Sacramento at New Orleans
Utah at Milwaukee
Boston at Chicago

Utan at Miliwaukee Boston at Chicago Indiana at Dallas Phoenix at L.A. Clippers Sunday's gai Golden State at Toronto Portland at New York Miami at Seattle

Indiana at Phoeni Houston at Denve

vision 28 4 .875 21 10 .677

17 14 .548 16 15 .516 11 22 .333

Monday's ga Orlando at Boston Portland at Philadelphia L.A. Lakers at Minnesota Golden State at Chicago San Antonio at Utah

Friday Bucks 107, Raptors 105 (OT)

MILWAUKEE D.Mason 6-16 11-14 23, mith 9-14 1-3 19, Gadzuric 2-3 1-2 5, Redd -20 5-7 15, M.Williams 8-12 5-9 22, Strickland -4 0-0 2, James 2-5 0-0 4, Kukoc 3-8 0-0 7, izer 0-1 2-2 2, Pachulia 3-4 2-2 8. Totals 39-87 7-39 107. 27-39 107. TORONTO — E.Williams 6-10 6-8 21, Bosh 2-6 9-10 13, Araujo 2-5 0-0 4, Peterson 5-10 3-4 15, Alston 0-12 5-6 5, Marshall 6-15 0-0 15, Rose 6-15 9-13 21, Bonner 3-8 0-0 7, Palacio 0-2 0-0 0, Murray 2-4 0-2 4

105. **Milwaukee **15 27 23 11 - 77 23 11 - 77 25 11 - 105 15 27 25 11 - 105 15 17 25 11 - 105 15 17 25 11 - 105 15 17 25 11 - 105 15 17 2

Magic 111, Bobcats 91

Magic 111, Bobcats 91

CHARLOTTE - Wallines 3-70 66. Okafor 7-141-315, Brezce 8-11.2-218, Rush 6-13-34

13, Hart 28-13, C. S. Tomin 14-04-05, Sampson 4-42-210, Kapono 6-7-6-00, Wiltel 2-6-00, Wiltel 2-

Pistons 110, Celtics 104

DETROIT — Prince 5-13 2-4 14, R.Wallace 6-14 4-4 16, B.Wallace 2-6 3-77, Billups 6-8 6-8 22, Hamilton 10-18 3-4 25, Hunter 2-6 4-4 8, McDyess 6-9 2-2 14, Dupree 1-3 2-2 4. Totals 38-77 26-35 110.

80STON — Welsoh 5-6 2-3 12, LaFrentr 4-6 1-6 1-8, Blount 3-5, 12-7, Psyton 5-13 0-6 1-7, Pierce 7-13 7-9 22, Jefferson 3-7 3-3 9, Banks 2-43 -8, Boxis 7-9 5-19, Allen 0-0 0-0 0, Perkins 0-12-2 2, McCarty 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 39-65 2-3-30 104.

Detroit 30 33 19 28—110 29 24 20 31—104

Detroit 30 33 19 28—110 Boston 1 40 4. Prince-Point Goals—Detroit 8-13 (Billups 44, Prince 22, Hamilton 24, R. Wallace 61, Hunter 62), Boston 38 (Piece 12, Banks 16, Prince 12, Banks 16, Proided out—Larrentz, Rebounds—Detroit 48 (B. Wallace 10), Boston 34 (LaFrentz 6), Assists—Detroit 24 (Prince 7), Boston 27, Boston 27, Boston 27, A-18,624 (LB,624), Total fouls—Detroit 23, Boston 27, A-18,624 (LB,624), Boston 27, Boston 27,

Kings 100, Hawks 97

SACRAMENTO — Stojakovic 7-18 1-1 17, Webber 13-22 2-228, B.Miller 1-5 0-0 2, Bibby 9-18 9-10 31, Christie 3-7 5-6 11, Ostertag 0-1 0-0, Evans 2-40-0 5, Songalla 2-5 0-0 4, Mar-tin 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 38-81 17-19 100.

Nets 82. Warriors 72

Nets 82, Warriors 72

COLDEN FATT. - Durleavy 6, 10 60 12, Murphy 26 2, 27, 7, 80 binson 6; 13 31, Murphy 26 2, 27, 7, 80 binson 6; 13 31, Murphy 26 2, 27, 7, 80 binson 6; 13 31, Murphy 26 0, 5, foyle 2; 40 4, 6, total 26; 73 14; 21, 72, Mury 1850; 7, 46 4, 76 4,

Grizzlies 84, Hornets 76 NEW ORLEANS - Rogers 3-11 4-7 10, Nailor

9.5 smith 6-20-00, Nachbas* 2-7-6-05, Dickad 3-6-2-2, Andersen 0-1-0-0, Harrington 1-4 2-5. Totals 26-82 19-23 76. MEMPHS – Battler 7-11 2-2 19, Gasol 6-12 8-8 20, Wright 1-7-0-0-2, Jwilliams 2-9-1-1, Miller 8-13-0-16, Watson 3-8-0-9, Wells 1-3 0-0-2, Swift 2-2 1-2, Jones 1-4-2-2-4. Totals 1-93 14-21 8-21.

31-50 (1-10) 54 x-5 2, notes 1-4 2-2 4. Totals 1-10 (1-10) 1-10 (1

Timberwolves 89, 76ers 84

PHILADELPHIA — Iguodala 0-1 2-2 2, K.Tho-mas 3-9 0-0 6, Dalembert 1-3 1-2 3, Salmons 4-11 0-0 10, Green 5-14 2-2 13, Jackson 3-10 11-12 17, Korver 3-11 0-0 9, Ollie 1-21-13, Will-iamson 7-17 7-9 21, McKie 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 77-78 74-78 40-78

11-121, nonro.
11-121

Bulls 84, Jazz 78

Utah 22 18 18 20-78 Chicago 12 27 29 16-84 Three-Point Goals-Utah 4-7 (Giricek 2-3, Okur 1-2, Eisley 1-2), Chicago 4-15 (Hinrich 2-4, Nocioni 1-2, Deng 1-3, Williams of 1, Gor-don 0-5). Fouled out-Curry. Rebounds-U-

tah 61 (Okur 11), Chicago 45 (Chandler 9). As sists—Utah 21 (McLeod 8), Chicago 23 (Hin rich 9). Total fouls—Utah 25, Chicago 29 Technicals—Eisley, Curry. A—16,887 (21,711)

Heat 103, Trail Blazers 92

Heat 103, Trail Blazers 92
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Lakers 111, Rockets 104

Lancer'S 111, NOCKETS 1U4
HOUSTON - McGrady 11-24-0-0-26, Howard
5-9-0-10, Yao 8-15-9-11-25, Surra 7-14-5-6-20,
Wesley 1-7-2-5, Barry 1-7-1-2-3, Mutombo
1-2-0-0-2, Barrett 1-1-0-0-2, Taylor-4-5-3-4-11,
Barrett 1-1-0-0-2, Taylor-4-5-3-4-11,
Barrett 1-1-0-2, Grant 1-2-8-8-2, Oddon
8-13-2-5-20, Mihm 3-7-4-10, Bryant 10-19-6-10
7-7, Aklińs 6-11-0-0-15, Grant 2-3-2-5, Coodo
3-4-0-0-8, Brown 2-4-0-0-4, Jones 0-1-0-0. To15-4-0-7-2-9-9-11.

tals 40-74 22-29 11.

Houston 13 24 37 30-104

LA. Lakers 26 35 22 28-111

Three-Point Goals—Houston 6-12

(McGrady 4-10, Wesley 1-3, Sura 1-6, Barry 0-3), LA. Lakers 9-20 (Atkins 3-6, Cook 2-3)

Odom 2-4, Bryant 1-2, Butler 1-3, Brown 0-2, Fouler 1-3, Law 2-2, Pohymories_Moustern 2, 6-12 Oudm 2-4, Bryant 1-2, Butter 1-3, Brown 0-2.7 Foulled out -Yao. Rebounds - Houston 46 (Howard 9), L.A. Lakers 46 (Odom 12), As-sists - Houston 25 (McGrady, Sura 8), L.A. Lakers 26 (Bryant 10), Total fouls - Houston 24, L.A. Lakers 23, Technicals - Houston coach Van Gundy, A.-18,997 (18,997).

NBA calendar

Jan. 10 - All player contracts guaranteed Jan. 10 – Ali player contracts guaranteed or rest of the season. Feb. 18-20 – Ali-Star weekend, Denver. Feb. 24 – Trading deadline, 3 p.m. EST. April 20 – Regular season ends. April 23 – Playoffs begin. June 7-10 – NBA predraft camp, Chicago. June 9 – Earliest possible NBA Finals start

date.

June 21 — Early entry draft withdrawal deadline.

June 23 — Latest possible NBA Finals end date. June 28 — NBA Draft, New York.

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Okafor off to good start for startup team

Bobcats rookie proving he can carry offensive load for expansion franchise

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. hen Emeka Okafor broke Shaquille O'Neal's rookie record for consecutive double-doubles, O'Neal softly — and sarcastically — clapped his hands.

"He gets the golf clap," O'Neal said. "There's only one me. There won't ever be another like me."

Maybe so, but there's no denying that Okafor has turned plenty of heads in his rookie season just like O'Neal did on the way to becoming one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history.

Okafor, the No. 2 pick in the NBA Draft, has settled right into his role as the cornerstone of the expansion Bobcats and quickly caught the eye of his opponents.

He's been chosen as the NBA's rookie of the month the two times the award has been given this season, and his streak of 19 straight games in double figures in points and rebounds broke O'Neal's mark of 16.

The streak was broken this week in a loss to Cleveland, but Okafor picked right back up two nights later with 18 points and 10 rebounds in a victory over Minnesota in which Okafor spent most of the night guarding Kevin Garnett.

"If he continues to work and become more polished, he can be really special," Garnett said. "He's playing like an animal right now."

The Bobcats never wavered in their desire to draft Okafor. Coach and general manager Bernie Bickerstaff spent five days scouting last year on Connecticut's campus.

Okafor was everything the Bobcats wanted to build their franchise around. A proven winner, he led UConn to the national title last season and was the Most Outstanding Player of the NCAA tournament.

He's tough, strong, takes pride in defense and is extremely intelligent. An Academic All-American, Okafor graduated in three years with a degree in finance and a 3.8 grade point average.

Still, there were questions.

He sat out three games at

UConn last season with a back injury that had some NBA scouts concerned. And he was dogged by the perception he couldn't star on offense.

"The word coming out of college was he would be great defensively and on the boards but would struggle offensively," Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said. "He hasn't at all. He's got good, quick moves around the basket and he has shot the ball ex-

tremely well.

"He has proven to be an offensive force and he seems to be get-

ting better and better."

Heading into the weekend,
Okafor was averaging 15.8 points
per game. His 11.4 rebounds per

44 The word coming out of college was he would be great defensively and on the

boards but would struggle offensively. He hasn't at all.

> Stan Van Gundy Miami Heat coach

game ranked third in the NBA. If his productivity has caught some by surprise, Okafor isn't among them

"I have no idea why people think that about me. I led [UConn] in scoring in a system that was not designed for me to score all the time," Okafor said. "I know I can score, and I don't really understand why people are surprised to see my scoring in the NRA"

Still, the questions were strong enough that the Orlando Magic passed on Okafor with the No. 1 pick in the draft. When the Magic called high schooler Dwight Howard's name on draft night, acrowd of about 14,000 at the Charlotte Coliseum erupted into cheers and Bobcats management

let out a sigh of relief. They had traded up from No. 4 to No. 2 to position themselves for a shot at Okafor, then had to hope the Magic wouldn't take him first.

The Bobcats would have been pleased with Howard, they insist-ed, but Okafor was a far better fit for a startup. They needed somene who could handle being the face of the franchise, and understand that every personnel move Charlotte makes is based around him and the long-term results it can produce.

"His maturity is important because he has the ability to see the big picture," Bickerstaff said. "We are trying to lay a foundation, and he sees the big picture. We're going to put this together, we're going to find the big pieces, and he makes it easier with his approach to the game."

Making the U.S. Olympic team was an extra bonus in Okafor's development. He didn't play much, but spent as much time learning about the NBA from his teammates as he did soaking up the history and culture in every country the team traveled to.

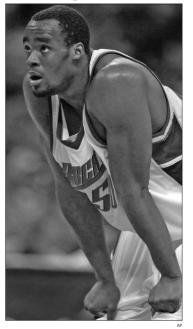
Bickerstaff said Okafor's willingness to observe and learn, and his attention to detail, will make him an NBA standout.

"He's a guy with a routine. If his routine is disoriented in any way, it impacts his game," Bickerstaff said. "All the great players I've been around, they had a routine. He gets it. A lot of pro players don't understand responsibility. You don't just show up because you are good."

Seattle guard Ray Allen, a UConn alum, is familiar with Okafor from watching the Huskies on TV. Even though he doesn't know him well personally, he said he never doubted Okafor would come charging out of the gate in the NBA.

"I tell everyone that playing for Jim Calhoun at UConn is the hardest thing you'll ever do. The NBA is easy compared to that," Allen said. "If he could play for Calhoun, and he could win a national championship for Calhoun, he was ready for this level and would have no problem breaking out of the pigeon hole as a defensive specialist."

The question now is whether Okafor can sustain his level of play and win Rookie of the Year



Charlotte Bobcats' Emeka Okafor, above, recently broke Shaquille O'Neal's rookie record with double-doubles in 19 consecutive games.

honors. With an even temperament — Okafor said he only gets excited "about the big stuff, like winning a national championship and getting drafted" — he refuses to look that far ahead.

"It's way too early, we've got way too many games left for me to be even thinking about that," Okafor said. "I could go out thead and tank if from here on out and someone else could play great. So right now I am just worrying about doing my job and doing it as well as I can, and nothing else."

Webber wonders whether New Yorkers would welcome him

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN The Associated Press

"Whisper in Isiah's ear for me," Chris Webber said. OK, Chris. Here it goes: Psst,

Webber has a few reservations, but he's definitely intrigued by

but he's definitely intrigued by the idea of playing for the New York Knicks. Webber rolled through New

York last week as the Sacramento Kings made the first stop on a four-game road trip, scoring 22 points in a seven-point victory that gave the Kings their 20th win NBA notes of the season.
Only six
NBA teams entered the
weekend with

as many as 20
as many as 20
wins, and none of them would figure to be eager to part with a player as integral to their success as
Webber is to the Kings. But Shacramento is a special case, still barboring the same unresolved chemistry issues that led Peja Stojakovic to ask for a trade over the sum-

And the team's financial commitment to Webber — about \$60 is somewhat of a risk as he continues his comeback from microfracture surgery on his right knee.

Webber freely acknowledges he's lost some of the explosiveness his knee used to provide, and he remains cautious when considering whether his knee will hold

up over the long haul.

He also harbors some apprehension over whether he'd be welcomed in New York, a prospect
he gave serious consideration to
3½ years ago before re-signing

with Sacramento.

"There's no player that's ever

touched a basketball that I've ever loved and admired more than Isiah," Webber said of the Knicks president, who was winning NBA titles with the Pistons when Webber was growing up as

a teenager in Detroit.

Thomas is not scared off by the amount of money remaining on Webber's contract, nor his 15 percent trade kicker, but he is known to be amortehersive about the

Webber's contract, nor his 15 percent trade kicker, but he is known to be apprehensive about the long-term health of Webber's knee.

Asked at the Kings-Knicks

game what type of piece he'd like to add to the Knicks, Thomas anvered "Snaquille O'Neal." But Thomas privately remains

Trained privacy remains one of the final major pieces to complete a transformation of a roster to which he's already added Stephon Marbury, Jamal Crawford, Tim Thomas, Nazr Mohammed and rookie Trevor Ariza, who has supplanted Penny Hardaway — another Thomas acquisition — as the backup shooting guard behind Allan Houston during Crawford's current injury list absence.

Singh still on top in Mercedes

BY DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

KAPALUA, Hawaii — Standing on the 12th tee, Mike Weir gazed down at the Pacific and watched dozens of surfers riding one big wave after another. As he walked up the 14th green and saw the leader board in the Mercedes Championship, he saw someone riding a wave that was big even by Maui's standards.

There was Vijay Singh — on top of his game, in the lead and showing no signs of letting up. "It's just a given he's going to be there." Weir said.

The only surprise Friday in the second round was that Singh was kind enough to give the rest of the winners-only field a fighting chance

chance.

The 41-year-old Fijian was
6-under par through seven holes
and on the verge of turning the
season-opening tournament into
a blowout. Then putts stopped falling until the final hole, when
Singh made a 10-foot bride putt
for an 8-under 65 that gave him a
two-shot lead over Weir.

"I just started off really well and kept it going," said Singh, who was at 15-under 131 after two rounds on the Plantation

Course at Kapalua.

He'll have to continue if he wants to win.

Weir looked sharp, overcoming a three-putt bogey from 15 feet on No. 10 to shoot a 10-under 63. Ernie Els, who was another shot behind after a 65, also made it look easy. In fact, the Big Easy has never had a round over par in 18 rounds at Kapalua.

"I just feel comfortable here,"



Ernie Els chips onto the ninth green during the second round of the Mercedes Championships on Friday at the Kapalua Plantation Course in Maui, Hawaii. Els finished the day at 12-under, three shots behind leader Viay Singh.

Tiger Woods feels anything but that. Woods is swinging better than he has in two years, and putting like he just picked up the game last week. Woods might be challenging Singh for the lead except for his difficulty on the greens, missing six birdle putts inside 8 feet on Friday in his round of 68 that left him five shots be-

hind.
"If I average my normal putts
per round like the rest of the year,
I've got a shot at it," said Woods,
who has taken 32 putts each of
the first two days. "But hey, we've
all got to do it."

And it can be done. Weir made putts from a variety of distances in matching his score from the first round of 2002, just one shot off the course record at Kapalua. Defending champion Stuart Appleby shot a 9-under 64 that got him back into contention, six shots behind. Singh, the only player without a bogey this week, has certainly made his share.

Sergio Garcia and Jonathan Kaye each had 67 and were at 11-under 135, while Chad Campbell (67) and Stewart Cink (68) joined Woods at 136. Retief Goosen and David Toms were at 138.

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Changes to BCS could include computer, coaches, committee

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

GRAPEVINE, Texas — Computers, coaches and a committee — or some combination of all three — are the most likely options for the next revision of the Bowl Championship Series.

Commissioners from the 11 Division I-A conferences met for more than five hours Friday in their first get-together since The Associated Press asked last month that its poll not be used in the formula that determines the teams for the four BCS games.

"What it's done is stimulate a re-evaluation of the whole criteria," ACC Commissioner John Swofford said. "It's interesting that in the past, most of the focus had been on the computers and where they fit in. This is the first year that we've really had the focus redirected to the human noll."

The meeting on the opening day of the NCAA convention was the BCS. Commissioners will meet again in April, but BCS coordinator and Big 12 Commissioner Kevin Weiberg said there might not be any final decisions then.

The primary issue is determining how to rank teams without the AP poll. The BCS formula, also using six computer rankings, was streamlined this season to put heavy emphasis on the two human polls, the AP and the ESPN/USA Today coaches poll.

Weiberg said the BCS could look to supplant the AP poll, "if there is a suitable replacement." The system, which started in 1989 and has overcome several changes, could also rank teams using the coaches poll and the computers.

There is still the concern of the coaches keeping their votes pri-

"The transparency issue is one of our most important," Weiberg said. "That would put us in a position to have some level of discomfort moving forward."

The American Football Coaches Association is expected to discuss that issue when it begins its convention Sunday in Louisville, Ky. Coaches voted last month against releasing their final bal-

More likely for the BCS is a "hybrid" approach using the coaches and computer polls, plus a selection committee.

"There probably needs to be a third element," Big 10 Commissioner James Delaney said. "I think everybody feels like if you have more information, more ways to look at it, you minimize extremes."

Weiberg said commissioners seemed to like the idea of a selection committee, similar to the 10-person panel of conference commissioners and athletic directors used to set the 65-team field for the NCAA basketball tournament.

"We did not get into the details, but I think there is interest in it," Weiberg said. "We realize a lot of the same issues apply."

Federer opens 2005 season with victory in Qatar Open

The Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — Roger Federer began 2005 the way he finished 2004: with a victory. Federer beat sixth-seeded Ivan

Ljubicic of Croatia 6-3, 6-1 Saturday in the Qatar Open final for his 21st straight match victory. The Swiss star has won 13 tour-

nament finals in a row, dating to October 2003, and he appears to be in peak form heading into a title defense in the year's first Grand Slam event, which starts Jan. 17.

"I am extremely happy to start the new year in such fine fashion," Federer said. "I am sure this win will give me great confidence going into the Australian Open."

Last year, he became the first man since Mats Wilander in 1988 to win three Grand Slam titles in a season, going 74-6 with 11 titles overall.

The top-ranked and top-seeded Federer needed just 63 minutes to defeat Ljubicic and claim his 23rd career title in his 31st final. Gore becomes latest Miami

player to enter NFL Draft MIAMI — Miami running back

Frank Gore is skipping his senior season and will enter the NFIL Draft, becoming the second Huricane in as many days to make that jump.
"I think it's time to move on,"

Gore said Friday.

He has already signed with

He has already signed with agent David Levine. Roscoe Parrish, Miami's lead

ing receiver this season, made his decision to leave school Thursday. Miami coach Larry Coker was among those who said Gore's stock would considerably rise if he staved at Miami for 2005. Gore

Sports briefs

had two major knee injuries in college, and was occasionally slowed by knee trouble this season. He had a team-best 945 yards, capping a career in which he ran for 1,975 yards and 17 touchdowns.

Gore has a 2-year-old son and a mother who is seriously ill with kidney disease, and he wants to begin providing for them.

Also on Friday, Missouri running back Damien Nash, who left the team in November, announced he would enter the draft. Nash, a junior, rushed for 1,254 yards and 12 touchdowns in two

The relationship between Nash and Missouri coach Gary Pinkel apparently soured after Nash was critical of play-calling following Missouri's 20-17 loss to Oklahoma State on Oct. 23. He was suspended for one game, and after he returned, his playing time decreased.

Austria's Grugger wins men's World Cup downhill

CHAMONIX, France — Johann Grugger won a World Cup downhill for the second time this season Saturday to lead a strong showing by Austria, which captured three of the top four spots. For the United States, Daron Rahlves was fifth and overall World Cup leader Bode Miller

shared eighth place.
Italy's Kristian Ghedina prevented an Austrian sweep by finishing second. Reigning downhill world champion Michael Walchhofer was third, followed by teammate Mario Scheiber.

Slovenia's Maze wins women's Cup giant slalom

SANTA CATERINA VALFUR-VA, Italy — Slovenia's Tina Maze won a World Cup giant slalom Saturday for her second victory this season

She was followed by Canadians Genevieve Simard and Allison Forsyth while Julia Mancuso of the United States was fourth for the best result of her career.

Maze covered the two runs on the new Deborah Compagnoni course in a combined time of 2 minutes, 36.78 seconds.

Boxer Camacho released on bond in Mississippi

GULFPORT, Miss.— Three-time boxing champion Hector "Macho" Camacho was released from jail after a friend paid part of his bond.

Camacho was charged with burglary of a Gulfport computer shop.

Biloxi police also charged him with drug possession after officers said they found him with 10 ecstasy pills in a hotel room when they arrested him Thursday.

The 42-year-old boxer was released Friday after being held on \$75,000 bail for the drug charge and \$50,000 for the burglary charge, police said. Bonding companies are required to collect 10 percent — in this case, \$12,500. A friend put up \$2,000 and Camacho will pay the rest, Randy Hilton of D&H bail bonds told The Associated Press on Saturday.

Camacho (78-5-2, 38 KOs) has been training on the Mississippi coast for a Jan. 21 middleweight bout with Chris Walsh (19-7-1, 7 KOs) in Gulfport.



Few secrets between rivals

Playoff game expected to mirror two regular-season nail-biters

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press GREEN BAY, Wis. - Ryan

Longwell expects Sunday's show down between the evenly matched Minnesota Vikings and Green Bay Packers to come down to a last-second field goal.

And why not? Both times they played in the regular season Green Bay won 34-31 on field goals by Longwell as time expired, capping impressiv 2-minute drives by Brett Favre. impressive

Longwell nailed a 33-yarder on Nov. 14 at Lambeau Field and a 29-varder on Christmas Eve at Minneapolis that gave the Packers their third straight NFC North crown.

The difference in Sunday's first-round playoff game could be a kicker's toe yet again.

"I think so," Longwell said.
"You look at them, the talent is very equal. They had a tough stretch at the end, but we had a tough stretch at the beginning So you look at our seasons and they're very similar. I just think it sets up for an interesting game because you just don't know what you're going to get from a rivalry like this?

Despite their sweep, the Packers aren't overconfident about the matchup. They know they easily could have lost both times to Min nesota because the difference between the teams is so thin.

Both have prolific passing games with star wide receivers, superior pass protection and multitalented offensive backfields to Minnesota (8-8) at

Green Bay (10-6)

OPENING LINE - Packers by 6.

RECORD VS. SPREAD - Vikings 7-9

Packers 7-8. SERIES RECORD — Packers lead 44-42-1

overall. LAST MEETING — Packers beat Vikings 34-31 on Dec. 24 at Minnesota. LAST POSTSEASON MEETING — First

meeting.
LAST WEEK – Vikings lost to Redskins
21-18. Packers beat Bears 31-14.
VIKINGS OFFENSE – OVERALL (4),
RUSH (18), PASS (2),
VIKINGS DEFENSE – OVERALL (28),
RUSH (21), PASS (271),
PACKERS OFFENSE – OVERALL (3),
RUSH (10), PASS (3),
PACKERS DEFENSS – OVERALL (25),
PACKERS DEFENSS – OVERALL (25),

PACKERS DEFENSE — OVERALL (25).

REY MATCHUP — KREY MATCHUP — KREY

STEAKS, STATS, AND NOTES. Packers was not brown and sear with the presence of the packers of the

keep opponents guessing. Each also sports a banged-up defense, a suspect secondary, a tendency to tackle poorly and a penchant for penalties.

Green Bay ranks first in the NFC in total offense and second in passing. Minnesota ranks first in the NFC in passing and second in total offense.

The Packers' defense was 25th in the NFL, the Vikings' 28th.

Of the eight teams playing in the first round of the playoffs, Green Bay and Minnesota have faced each other more times than any other set of opponents. And no matchup features a series as close as the Packers' 44-42-1 edge over the Vikings

"We know those guys, they know us. We know what they do, they know what we do," Favre

The Packers became the ninth team in league history to reach the postseason after posting a 1-4 record, and the Vikings made it despite finishing 3-7 — so momentum is on Green Bay's side.

But the season sweep "really wouldn't matter a whole lot if we don't beat them in this game They would have the last laugh," Favre said. "They can easily win the ballgame just as well as we could. We just played. We know each other as well as you can know a team. There won't be a whole lot of tricks up either team's sleeves. It's your goods against their goods.

Vikings kicker Morten Andersen, who said he went ice fishing



last week to prepare for the bitter cold, also expects a kicker to be lining up for another game-winner on Sunday, and he hopes this time it's not Longwell.

'He's had enough, hasn't he?' Andersen said. Longwell has four game-win-

ning field goals in the past seven weeks, including one against Detroit in frigid conditions like those expected Sunday. You have to prepare for that

every week and especially in the playoffs," Longwell said. "The teams are just so evenly matched and so equally talented in the playoffs that you've got to prepare for close games.

Andersen couldn't agree more: "Playoffs are always pretty close And usually the kicking game plays a vital role in the outcome.

Vikings coach Mike Tice is kicking himself over scoring too quickly at the end of both regular-season games against the Packers thus giving Favre a chance to back - something he's done 34 times in the fourth quarter during his NFL career.

"Obviously, we have to, against Brett Favre, not give him the ball last." Tice said. "If we can improve by one play or score a little later, who knows how this thing's going to turn out?"

League refuses to rescind warning to Denver's Lynch

By EDDIE PELLS

DENVER - The NFL refused Friday to retract wording in a letter to Broncos safety John Lynch that warned he could be ejected for making another illegal hit like the one that knocked Colts tight end Dallas Clark out of last Sunday's game The league fined Lynch \$75,000 for the helmet-to-helmet hit. Along with the fine, NFL disciplinarian Gene Washington sent a letter reprimanding Lynch and informing him that of

ficials for Sunday's playoff game

at Indianapolis have been alert-

to eject him if warranted.

ed to keep an eye on Lynch and

Lynch's attorney, Harvey Steinberg, wrote a letter to the NFL appealing the fine and demanding that language threatening ejection be rescinded.

'We fear that the integrity of this contest will be impacted adversely here by the influence on the impartiality of the officiating crew," Steinberg wrote in a letter obtained by The Denver Post.

On Friday, a league spokesan said Art Shell, the NFL's senior vice president of football operations, replied to Steinberg. 'He reviewed his points, be-

lieves Gene Washington's letter is appropriate, and therefore will not be making a retraction," the spokesman said.

Slow-down: Broncos gear up for machine-like Manning

SLOW-DOWN, FROM BACK PAGE

Turf" in the NFC Championship Game in January 2000. The Buccaneers limited them

to 11 points but still lost.

Vince Lombardi Trophy.

In Super Bowl XXXVII. another MVP quarterback, Rich Gannon, led another highly touted offense, the Oakland Raiders, that was deemed unstoppable. Five interceptions later, including three for touchdowns, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers were holding the

"I think there's a tendency to think that No. 1 offenses can't be stopped, but I think if you play great defense, it's a tremendous equalizer," Lynch said.

Avoid missed assign-ments/tackles: The last two weeks of the regular season have showcased Denver at its relative best, though matters arguably might have been different had the Tennessee Titans' Steve McNair and Manning played more than a combined three snaps.

The Titans and Colts combined for 353 yards, 18 first downs and 30 points, helping the Broncos finish ranked fourth in total defense

But there have been games in which Denver often has looked lost - at Cincinnati, against Atlanta, late at home against Oakland and at Kansas City.

"I know we've got the talent to natch up with them, that's no problem," Denver cornerback Champ Bailey said. "We've got to execute. ... If we're in position with the athletes that we have, there's no one that can beat us. If you get us out of position we're just like any other defense, good or bad."

■ Confusion, plus contusions: Manning doesn't do all those pre-snap histrionics for nothing. He wants the defense to give away its alignment prematurely,

then attack its weakness. The Broncos have to mix up things without mixing up them-

"Whatever we do, we've just got to do it well," Bailey said. "If it's cover-2 zone blitz or man-to-man We've just got to do it well."

selves

The Broncos were forced to play a lot of zone coverages in last year's playoff game because of a depleted secondary.

They appear better suited to do nore this time, particularly with the addition of Bailey

"Whether we do or not, we've got to," Coyer said. And expect the Broncos to try

to get physical with the Colts receivers and attack Manning as much as possible with frequent zone blitzes.

There are other areas of con-

Edgerrin James ran for 1.548 yards and was second in the NFL in yards from scrimmage (2,031) And tight ends Marcus Pollard and Dallas Clark are no slouches, either

Even so, Cover did manage a smile while discussing all the problems Indianapolis can create. You know what?" he said, eyes widening, "I think it's going to be

Denver (10-6) at Indianapolis (12-4)

OPENING LINE - Colts by 7.
RECORD VS. SPREAD - Broncos 6-7.

Colts 9-6.

SERIES RECORD — Broncos lead 11-5

verall; Colts lead 1-0 in playoffs.

LAST MEETING — Broncos beat Colts
33-14 on Jan. 2 at Denver.

— Colts

LAST POSTSEASON MEETING — Colts eat Broncos 41-10 on Jan. 4, 2004, at Indi-napolis in AFC wild-card game. LAST WEEK — Broncos beat Colts

3-14, BRONCOS OFFENSE — OVERALL (5), RUSH (4), PASS (6), BRONCOS DEFENSE — OVERALL (4), RUSH (4), PASS (6),

COLTS OFFENSE - OVERALL (2), RUSH

(5), PASS (1). COLTS DEFENSE — OVERALL (29), RUSH

COLTS DEFENSE — OVERALL LCS), NOSD IN KEY MATCHUP — Broncos DE Reggle Hayward vs. Colts GB Peyton Mannian KEY MATCHUP — Broncos DE Reggle Hayward vs. Colts GB Peyton Mannian seasons in NR1 history, setting resident with 49 TD passes and as 12.11 passes ratio with 49 TD passes and as 12.11 passes ratio with 45 TD passes and as a result fin-inshed third in the league with 45.57 yards recommended to the control of the collection season, and team allowed 14 all years tied for fewest in league that was tied for fewest in league that TD passes and the collection 38 asids. To win, broncos must pressure that done this passes. If we was the law done this passes.

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Game

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES — Game makes 13th time in NR. Instory teams makes 13th time in NR. Instory teams makes 13th time in NR. Instory teams they ended regular season against each time which is not season to the common opponents, colts with season to the common opponents, colts with season to the collection of the

Ferguson recovers quickly but unlikely to play Sunday BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. - There's a slight chance that Packers wide receiver Robert Ferguson could play Sunday, just three weeks after a clothesline hit by Jackson-

ville's Donovin Darius left him temporarily paralyzed. Green Bay coach Mike Sherman upgraded Ferguson from

doubtful to questionable for Sunday's game against Minnesota after Ferguson performed well during Friday's practice, his first full workout since the injury. Ferguson, however, hasn't had

any contact yet, and that will probably prevent him from suiting up Sunday. The more likely scenario is for him to play next week at Atlanta should the Packers win.

Even if he were to play against the Vikings, Sherman said Ferguson would not return kicks.

Ferguson is still experiencing headaches but has regained sensa tion and strength in his extremities, and team doctors cleared him this week to return to the field.

His new helmet was equipped with a visor to cut down on the glare that continues to bothers him. His chin snap and face mask



Green Bav's Robert Ferguson practiced for the first time Friday after absorbing this hit by Jacksonville's Donovin Darius on Dec. 19.

was broken on the old helmet, which was stripped from his head when he was hit Dec. 19 by Darius, drawing a 15-yard penalty, an ejection and a \$75,000 fine.

Ferguson said he appreciated a phone call from Darius in the hospital, but he didn't like Jacksonville coach Jack Del Rio referring to him as "that guy" instead of by name while defending his safety over the vicious hit.

Schottenheimer earns AP award

BY BARRY WILNER

NEW YORK — Marty Schottenheimer's guidance of one of the great turnarounds in NFL history won him The Associated Press 2004 NFL Coach of the Year award.

Schottenheimer took the San Diego Chargers from tallender to division champion, from a 4-12 embarrassment to a 12-4 power that was to host the New York Jets in a playoff game Saturday night. The 61-year-old, who sha worked in Cleveland, Kansas City and Washington, did his worked in Cleveland, Kansas City and Washington, did his work of an 18½-season head coaching caree.

coacning career.
"There is a great sense of satisfaction when you're able to get things going in the right direction," said Schottenheimer, who received 27% of the 48 votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football. "I always pride myself on one thing — I think I'm a teacher. It's fin to see your players listen and work together to apply the basic philosophies and concepts that are important to success."

Many of Schottenheimer's team have done that He's coached division winners in Cleveland, where he was the head man from mid-1984 through 1988. And in Kansas City (1989-98). He even had an 88-record in his one season in Washington, and considering how other Redskins coaches have done for owner Daniel Snyder, that was impressive, too.

But his third season in San Diego has been charmed. And perhaps a bit lucky, because Schottenheimer was looking for a different quarterback and hoped to go with first-round draft pick Phillip Rivers.

When Rivers held out for half of training camp, Schottenheimer stuck with Drew Brees. Brees wound up as Comeback Player of 441 always pride muself on one

thing — I think I'm a teacher. It's fun to see your players listen and work

and work
together to apply
the basic
philosophies and
concepts that are

important to
success. 77

Marty Schottenheimer
San Diego Chargers coach

the Year and Schottenheimer became Coach of the Year for the first time.

His players say Schottenheimer's decision to form a players council and ease up in practices, as well as remodeling the locker room, made a big difference.

"I've seen it all year," said linebacker Domie Edwards, who also played for Schottenheimer in Kansas City. "The way he's changed his coaching to understand the players and let the players understand the coaches — so it's a two-way street now.

"There are so many things that have changed. It's all been for the best. I'm really excited about him, because he came into the year with great enthusiasm and great energy and it transferred over right to us as players, and we've been able to translate that onto the field."

Ravens' Reed chosen as Defensive Player of Year

NEW YORK — Ed Reed wasn't



San Diego Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer, who guided his team to a 12-4 record and a division title after a 4-12 record, was voted The Associated Press Coach of the Year.

just the best defensive player on the Baltimore Ravens — no small feat with Ray Lewis as a teammate — he was the best defender in the NFL this season. The Ravens safety outplayed

The Ravens safety outplayed even his illustrious buddy and training partner in winning The Associated Press 2004 Defensive Player of the Year award. No one was more impressed than Lewis.

"He deserves it," said the two-time winner of the honor. "He prepares like a coach. He loves to play, period. He brings joy to work. He's tough and smart."

Reed showed just how tough, smart, resourceful and skilled his is by dominating games from the safety position. Usually, it's linebackers such as Lewis or ends who get lots of sacks or cornerbacks who shut down opponents who control games.

But Reed, in his third season out of the University of Miami also Lewis' college — had a greater impact than any other defend-

He earned 20 votes from a national panel of writers and broadcasters who cover pro football, beating Steelers linebacker James Farrior, who had 16. He is the first safety to win the award in 20 years.

Haslett will return for sixth year with Saints

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Jim Haslett has been told by New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson that he will return for a sixth season as coach.

Haslett's five-year record of 42-38 is the second best in team history behind Jim Mora's 93-78 mark. The Saints, however, have missed the playoffs four straight years. This season, New Orleans started 4-8 but won its final four games to finish 8-8.

"There's been a lot of speculation about the coach the whole year, and we wanted to get that behind us as quick as possible," general manager Mickey Loomis said. "We're strongly behind Jim. He's our coach. We strongly believe that he is going to lead this team to a championship." Haslett declined comment Saturday.

Loomis said Benson met with Haslett on Friday in West Palm Beach, Fla., where the owner has been on vacation. Loomis also met with Haslett during the week.

"Jim and I met several times during the week to talk about things we need to improve on and set the tone for the next year," Loomis said. "Jim had to get some feelings on the table and we had to get that behind us."

Haslett has two years remaining on a five-year contract that pays him an average of \$3 million a season.

Astros await word on Beltran; Indians, Millwood reach deal

RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Houston Astros will find out shortly whether they'll keep Carlos Beltran. Competing against the New

Competing against the New York Mets and perhaps other teams, the Astros faced a Saturday midnight EST deadline to re-sign the speedy center fielder who helped Houston come within a win of its first World Series appearance.

Beltran, 27, has been seeking a contract in excess of \$100 million. Astros owner Drayton McLane spoke with Beltran's agent, Scott Boras, on Saturday morning.

"There's been no new developments," Astros spokesman Jimmy Stanton said. "There's nothing new to report. ... It'll be a

long day."

After Saturday, the Astros
would be unable to sign Beltran

until May 1.

Also Friday, the Los Angeles
Dodgers closed in on a contract
with Red Sox postseason hero

with Red Sox postseason hero Derek Lowe worth about \$36 million over four years and finalized their \$24 million, three-year deal to keep left-hander Odalis Perez. "I can't comment yet — saying

yes or saying no," Lowe said from his home in Fort Myers, Fla., when asked about a possible future with the Dodgers.

Los Angeles was holding off fi-

nalizing a contract with Lowe, wanting first to complete a deal that would send Shawn Green to Arizona, a lawyer involved in those talks said on condition of anonymity.

Green, who is due to earn \$16 million this season, did not reach an agreement with the Diamond-backs on a contract extension before Thursday's deadline, but Arizona and the Dodgers requested a new window Friday night. Green and the Diamondbacks were given until Monday to agree to an extension that would allow the teams to finalize a revised trade.

"It's a slightly different deal," Diamondbacks general partner Diamondbacks general partner East New Hope we are able to come to terms with Shawn. We were relatively close on certain things and never really had a chance to get to other things."

Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta confirmed the matter went to the commissioner's office, but he would not elaborate.

Lowe was 14-12 with a 5.42 ERA in 38 starts for Boston last season. But he was 3-0 with a 1.86 ERA in four games during the postseason, three of them starts. He was the winner in the final game of all three postseason series — against the Angels, Yan-kees and Cardinals — as the Red Sox won their first World Series in 86 years.

About the possibility of pitch-

ing for the Dodgers, Lowe said:
"They won their division last
year. Any time you can go to a
team that has won, or has a
chance to win, it definitely would
be a good situation."

Lowe said he was disappointed the Red Sox never made him an offer to return, but added: "I knew it was heading down that path late in the season. You realize that it's a business. It was definitely an enjoyable place to play. I have nothing but good things and positive things to say about playing there."

Kevin Millwood, who like Beltran and Lowe is represented by Boras, finalized a \$7 million, one-year contract with the Cleveland Indians on Saturday.

Millwood is guaranteed \$3 million in salary. He also gets a \$4 million signing bonus, but that money is contingent on his not spending more than 20 days on the disabled list for a shoulder or elbow injury sustained while pitching—not fielding or batting.

Millwood also can earn an additional \$1 million in performance bonuses, getting the full amount if he makes 34 starts or pitches 215 innings.

If Millwood spends 21 or more days on the DL for an injury to his shoulder or elbow sustained while pitching, he would lose 1/183rd of the signing bonus for each day on the DL, including the first 20. That reduction calculates to \$21.857 ber day.

"Kevin is a proven, front-of-the-rotation veteran start front-of-the-the vho has considerable experience in the playoff environment," Indians General Manager Mark Shapiro said. "That experience will serve as an invaluable resource to our young pitchers."

While waiting for Beltran's decision, the Mets reached a preliminary agreement on a one-year contract with infielder Miguel Cairo worth about \$900,000.

Left-hander Chris Hammond and the San Diego Padres agreed to a \$750,000, one-year contract that is contingent on the reliever's passing a physical next week. Gabe White, another left-hander eliever, agreed to a \$600,000, one-year contract with the Atlanta Braves.

Designated hitter Ruben Sierra is staying with the Yankees, agreeing Saturday to a \$1.5 million, one-year contract. Also facilities of Saturday deadline to re-sign were pitcher Pedro Astacio and first baseman Dave McCarty (Boston); catcher Brent Mayne (Carty (Boston); catcher Brent Mayne (Ganville Chiladelphia). All but Glanville were considering re-signing.

Among players eligible for salary arbitration, Detroit first baseman Carlos Pena agreed to a one-year contract worth \$2.575,000.

There are 103 players who remain eligible to file by Jan. 14.

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SPORTS



Memphis beats league's worst team to creep above .500 and extend winning streak to six. Page 27

Denver's slow-down tactics

Broncos eager to make amends against Colts' prolific offense

> BY LEE RASIZER Rocky Mountain News

All the pleasantries had just been handed out and Larry Coyer had more than given the Indianapolis Colts their due Wednesday Peyton Manning: greatest play-

er in the game today. The coaching staff that guides

him: brilliant. The receivers who catch Manning's passes; best in football as a

group But as the Denver Broncos defensive coordinator kept talking to reporters flanking him, his face hegan to redden

The intensity level began rising And about six questions in, the

usually serene Coyer erupted. Enough about what the Colts' top-ranked offense is capable of doing. Instead, he wanted to chat about Denver having what it takes to slow them down in the teams' wild-card playoff matchup Sunday at the RCA Dome.

"They are what they are. They're very good. And we are what we are," Coyer said. "Now we have to go raise hell and see who wins. And we're going to raise mortal hell OK? And we'll find out. That's all I know to say ... All the other stuff is [expletive] and I won't listen to it. We'll see. Let's wait until the game, then make our comments.

The only statement the Bron cos defense made in its playoff meeting at Indianapolis in January 2004 was that it wasn't ready for raising anything but the Colts' points total.

Manning completed 12 passes for 10 or more yards, including touchdowns of 31, 46, 23 and 87 yards. Receivers Marvin Harrison and Brandon Stokley each had 100-yard performances for the first time in playoff history And that occurred in the first half



7 p.m. Sunday:

AFN-Atlantic, Pacific and AFN-Radio



Broncos safety John Lynch (47) lowers the boom on Colts tight end Dallas Clark during Sunday's game in Denver. Lynch, who was fined \$75,000 by the NFL for the helmet-to-helmet hit, was added to the Broncos secondary, along with Champ Bailey, after Denver was torched 41-10 in the playoffs last year in Indianapolis.

The Broncos (10-6) vow there won't be a repeat this time

"I promise you one thing," Broncos defensive tackle Ellis Johnson said. "We will show up in Indianapolis to play on Sunday. Once they arrive, how do they

figure to handle the league's No. 2 offense? There are a few ways the Broncos will enhance their chances:

■ Turn up the intensity: After Denver's playoff loss, Coyer was incredulous that the defense could be so flat emotionally.

"A whole bunch of this game is intensity," he said Wednesday. "This is the real deal. You're one-and-done and that's the way it is until it's over. And if you ain't ready to put it all out there, we're



nst Denver in last year's playoffs, Peyton Manning completed 22 of 26 passes for 377 yards,

■ Don't fall into the hype: The Colts average 32.6 points, boast three 1.000-yard receivers and the league's likely Most Valuable Play-er in Manning, so they already

have gotten Denver's attention. "To look at it on paper, it's kind of like, 'Man that can't be right,' Johnson said.

Still, it doesn't mean Indiananolis is unbeatable.

"It's just a matter of slowing them down to a point," Johnson

The comments the Broncos are hearing this week, that they have little chance of doing just that, are familiar to safety John Lynch.

At Tampa Bay, he played against the St. Louis Rams' high-powered "Greatest Show on SEE SLOW-DOWN ON PAGE 30



Forecast at Lambeau Field calls for another bitterly close call between rivals

Page 30



Productive Okafor the centerpiece of Bobcats' inaugural season

Page 28



World No. 1 Singh parlays scalding start into two-shot lead in Hawaii

Page 29

Chargers' Schottenheimer selected NFL coach of the year Page 31